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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

FORTY-FIVE VOLUMES.

—(9.)—

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS;
COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

Session

27 January 1887 — 16 September 1887.

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FORTY-FIVE VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

NINTH VOLUME.

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RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1884, 1885, AND 1886.

(In continuation of [C.-4904.] of September 1886.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1887.



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GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.

No. 1.

Governor W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the Right Hon.
EDWARD STANHOPE, M.P.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, January 7, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 19th of November, in which you request to be informed whether the Colonial Secretary before coming away on leave furnished me with a report on the Blue Book of the Gold Coast Colony for 1884, as, if so, it had not been sent home.

2. The report referred to was furnished to me, and I have the honour to transmit it herewith. It is dated 8th of December 1885, but I did not receive it until some time afterwards, and laid it by, intending to comment on some of the remarks it contained and then send it on, but owing to my visit to Aburi in February last, by oversight the document was put away, and when afterwards it turned up I thought that as it was of such old date, and the report on the Blue Book of 1885 would shortly be written, that it was not worth while to send it on. In the circumstances I regret that it was not forwarded earlier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Edward Stanhope, M.P.
&c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Christiansborg,
Accra, December 8, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my report upon the Blue Book for the Gold Coast Colony for the year 1884.

o 50182. Wt. 20180.

A 2

GOLD COAST.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

No changes have been made in these sources of supply since the compilation of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1883. The customs tariffs introduced in 1877 and the licenses in 1875 are the same now as have been in force since those years, but the time has now arrived when a revision of some of them might be taken into consideration with a view to modifications being effected. In a coast line like that of the Gold Coast, extending about 350 miles in length, containing 26 ports of entry and 24 sufferance wharves, with many mixed communities of tribes inside it, having different and often divergent trading interests, it is not an easy thing to foreshadow what these modifications should be in order that they may benefit the people we govern and secure (which is all important) that cohesion between ourselves and the large countries of the interior outside our jurisdiction which will advance the prospects of the Colony.

With a view to improving in like manner the prospects of Lagos, the customs duties at present in force there might likewise be considered in order to such a revision of them as must tend to the advantage of our commercial interests generally in those parts, and the maintenance and benefit in our own hands of the trade with the Mahommedan kingdoms of that part of the interior of West Africa where, although a long way off, the British name is held in paramount reverence, and from whence when the roads are opened up to legitimate commerce a large business will be introduced to European and native merchants living under the protection of our flag in those parts of the Gulf of Guinea.

As concerns the Gold Coast proper the issue of an authority to the officer at the head of the department of the customs directing him to consult with the different local commercial houses would be found, I believe, to lead to a result which would be of assistance to the Government, since he would record their experiences and views, those of natives also, and generally collect evidence bearing upon the subject to meet the altered conditions of our trade here reporting in due course to your Excellency upon the complicated subject.

The remission, however, of customs duties upon building materials is an instance which, in my judgment, might at once be submitted to the Legislative Council for consideration and recommendation in order that well-to-do native members of the community might see their way, in these hard times, to import materials for erecting an improved class of dwelling free of the *ad valorem* duty of 4 per cent. Another instance is that of the custom duty imposed upon imported food. If the article of food were relieved of this duty it would certainly contribute a little to the benefit of the people who at present rely upon their purchases of imported breadstuffs and rice. I should like to see food relieved of taxation.

*Revenue and Expenditure.*GOLD COAST

The net revenue under the head of—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fixed revenue was -	167,638	5	9			
Incidental receipts was -	5,528	8	11			
Receipts in aid of revenues was -	10,721	4	6			
Contributing a gross revenue of -	-	-	-	183,887	19	2
The expenditure under—						
Civil establishments was -	93,893	10	4			
Pensions was -	3,631	1	2			
Miscellaneous ser- vices was	60,115	19	0			
Making a gross total expenditure of -	-	-	-	157,640	10	6
Shewing a diffe- rence in favour of net revenue of -	-	-	-	26,247	8	8

It will be seen upon reference to Return D. in the Blue Book under review that the excess of net revenue over expenditure in 1883 was 19,038*l.* 1*s.*, showing an advance in revenue in 1884 over expenditure of 7,209*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, which goes to establish a satisfactory state of affairs.

The item most worthy of notice in the comparative yearly statement of the revenue is an increase in the amounts collected by the customs in the year 1884, amounting to 26,924*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, which may be said to be due to an increase of the trade of the Colony.

The returns show further that whilst the revenue rose from 156,206*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* in 1883 to 183,887*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* in 1884, showing an increase of 27,681*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* the expenditure rose from 137,168*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* in 1883 to 157,640*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* in 1884, showing an increase of expenditure amounting to 20,471*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, which is considerable, but appears to be due in the main to an increase of establishments and to repairs of roads and Government buildings. There is, however, one other item assisting to make up this excess of expenditure, and that is an item of 4,765*l.* 6*s.*, being "refund of duties" at Lagos, which is the actual result of an increase of trade there!

There are no export duties in this Colony.

GOLD COAST.*Local Revenue.*

There are no municipal authorities in the Colony, and no revenue has been raised under this head since the time of the poll tax which was not enforced since the year 1859.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt in the Colony, the balance of the old Imperial grant having been paid off in 1879.

Military Expenditure.

There is but one military station in the Colony, and that is at Cape Coast Castle, which is garrisoned by a company of the West India Regiment, detached for that duty from Sierra Leone. Until quite lately there were two companies of the West India Regiment at Cape Coast Castle.

The other defensive force of the Colony is the Gold Coast Constabulary with a total of all ranks of 1,206.

	£	s.	d.
The cost in 1884 to the Colony of the Imperial force before mentioned			
at Cape Castle was - -	127	13	0
That of the Gold Coast Constabulary	38,556	14	8
Total - - -	38,684	7	8

This amount (127*l.* 13*s.*) simply represents the commutation allowance calculated at the rate of 6*d.* per diem for each officer and 6*d.* per month for each man in the force granted in lieu of or as a drawback for customs duties paid on wines and spirits imported for use of the troops. In addition to this the occupation of the Castle is given free of rent. The cost to the Imperial Government for the maintenance of the troops during the year 1884 was 11,469*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, which is the local expenditure, and does not include (1) the cost of clothing, arms, and accoutrements; (2) cost of preserved meat and biscuit sent from England; (3) passages of officers from England; (4) cost of miscellaneous and ordnance stores.

Public Works.

The expenditure hereunder was 14,037*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, as against, in 1883, 9,103*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

The excess of expenditure was mainly on account of "current repairs and maintenance of public buildings and roads, streets, and bridges."

Legislation.

Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year 1884.

The principal ones were :—

No. 2.—An Ordinance to organise and establish a volunteer force in the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 4.—An Ordinance to regulate the importation and storage of explosives within the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 14.—An Ordinance for regulating the law of marriage.

No. 16.—An Ordinance to control recruiting in the Gold Coast Colony for the service of foreign states.

Of the remaining 15, three were deportation Ordinances, two referred to local departmental matters, two were additional "supply" for 1884 and "supply," 1885, and the remaining eight were "supplementary supply" for the four years immediately preceding 1884. Arrears of work.

Councils and Assemblies.

Since the head quarter seat of Government is at Christiansborg, near Accra, and the senior officer commanding Her Majesty's regular troops is always quartered at Cape Coast Castle, it has not been found easy for the Councils to have the benefit at their sittings of the attendance of the officer commanding Her Majesty's troops. The distance between Cape Coast Castle and Christiansborg, some 70 miles, the slowness and inconveniences of the communication by land between the two stations, together with the unreliable time of departure and arrival of the mail steamers, must be deemed as responsible for this state of things, but in course of time a change may be possible.

Civil Establishment.

The most notable change hereunder was the appointment of the late Mr. W. A. G. Young, C.M.G., to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who landed at Accra from England on the 29th March 1884, relieving Governor Sir Samuel Rowe, K.C.M.G., in the duties of the charge of the government by his assumption of the same that day.

Other changes and promotions took place amongst the European staff of the Colony during the year 1884 in consequence of advancements and removals to other Colonies and retirements.

The office of Colonial Surgeon on the Gold Coast ceased in favour of the new appointment of "Chief Medical Officer," possessing the more extended powers of control over the medical staff of Lagos.

The department of the Audit Office was increased by the appointment of an Assistant Auditor and an Examiner of Accounts, but the former officer only arrived out here during the year.

GOLD COAST. There was one death only in 1884 amongst the European staff, and it was that of Deputy Assistant Colonial Secretary H. W. Woodcock.

Population, Marriages, Births, and Deaths.

It is almost impossible to estimate with accuracy the population of the entire Colony as no means exist whereby a census could be taken of the Gold Coast Settlement, the natives of which are suspicious of their numbers being counted, having, perhaps, a lively recollection of the old days when the poll tax was in force, besides which there are many other practical difficulties in the way of taking a census of the Gold Coast, even supposing that the native was not adverse to it. The population of the Colony is, of course, considerable, and I think may be guessed to be not less than 475,000.

In a country like that of the settlement of the Gold Coast, where the masses of the peoples dwelling upon its area are not Christian and polygamy prevails so generally throughout it, it is not possible to tell what number of native marriages periodically take place, and, owing to like difficulties, it is not possible to tell the numbers of births and deaths. As regards Christian marriages the Marriage Ordinance of 1884 when brought into operation will naturally assist in the way of facilitating the collection of statistics so far as Christians are concerned.

Ecclesiastical.

There are about 117 churches and chapels in the Colony, or buildings used as such. The denominations are Protestant, Wesleyan, Roman Catholic, Basel German Evangelical, Protestant North German Mission, and Baptist, and the number of persons generally attending the services amount to about twenty thousand (20,000), yet there is no Protestant church at the head quarter seat of Government at Christiansborg. The Government staff quartered in Accra, New Site, and Christiansborg have no church to go to unless to the court house in Accra, which is not a church, and have no regularly appointed clergyman to administer to their requirements, there being no clergyman of the Church of England nearer to headquarters, Christiansborg, than the chaplain residing at Cape Coast, about 70 miles off. It is a gloomy circumstance to put on record that in the cases of officers resident at Accra, New Site, or Christiansborg there is no minister of the religion of the Church of England to attend the sick officer at his bedside or to bury him in case of death; the conduct of funeral ceremonies in such cases being freely performed by a member of the Basel Evangelical Mission.

As regards the service of the Church of England, which is held under a layman in the court house at Accra on Sundays, it is worthy of notice that under the voluntary efforts of a very few of

the church members of the native community, constituting a very small congregation indeed, no less a sum than from 60*l.* to 100*l.* per annum yearly has been collected during the past five years towards the expenditure incidental to such Sunday services. During week days the court house, as its name implies, is occupied for the disposition of police cases before a magistrate. It may be matter for consideration whether the local Government might not take the matter up by providing a better building and money enough for the salary of a European clergyman to carry on and increase the work thus begun by a very few of the native people. Doubtless if the Bishop found it possible to pay more frequent visitations to the Gold Coast and to remain longer on each such occasion this want would have been recognised and represented by his Lordship long ago. It is to be hoped that we may more oftener see the Bishop amongst us, as his presence would doubtless tend to an improved state of affairs.

GOLD COAST.

Education.

Judging from the returns before me under this head, considerable effort is being made in the cause of education. It is to be hoped and, I think, expected that the working of the Education Ordinance of 1883, and the efforts of the Inspector of Schools, the Rev. M. Sunter, M.A., will soon show a marked and decided progress, if the scheme of this Ordinance, which provides for the frequent inspections of our schools, and the supervision and direction of the officers in charge of them is carried out; but up to the present, owing to various causes, the Inspector of Schools has been prevented from giving such attention to this Colony as is necessary.

Imports and Exports.

The total imports from—

		£	s.	d.
United Kingdom were	-	741,948	0	5
British Colonies	-	623	1	10
Foreign and adjacent countries		322,988	10	11
Total	-	1,065,559	13	2

The total exports to—

		£	s.	d.
United Kingdom were	-	580,681	6	0
British Colonies	-	2,322	17	6
Foreign and adjacent countries		556,638	3	2
Total	-	1,139,642	6	8

GOLD COAST.

I have myself seen imports of these descriptions in the market-places of the interior outside our jurisdiction.

From this it appears that the imports from United Kingdom are about 75 per cent. of the total imports, Germany and the United States contributing largely to the remaining 25 per cent.

The exports to the United Kingdom were about 50 per cent. of the total exports. Of the remaining 50 per cent. Germany took about 35 per cent.

When these figures are examined, and it is remembered that trade with the interior has long been interrupted by wars, by anarchy and disorder, they point to a hopeful state of commerce in the future, to the time in the history of the Colony, which is sure to come when the nations and tribes of the interior, tired of their intrigues, their little wars and machinations, but assisted at the same time by our strong moral influence, will be restored to a more tranquil and a more money-making state of existence *inter se*; when by the construction, maintenance, and keeping open the roads, coupled with the establishment of a scale of duties upon our imports, which will not seduce the distant purchaser or barterer to new markets other than our own, the great dormant, native wealth in the interior behind us may be suffered to reach the coast, as in olden times, securely and in plenty, for shipment in British vessels.

Shipping.

Of the sailing vessels which entered at ports in the Colony in the year 1884, the total number was 87, with a tonnage of 23,294, of which—

United Kingdom	were	12,	with a tonnage of	2,108
American	„	19	„ „	7,116
German	„	24	„ „	6,633

The remainder were Austrian, Belgian, Italian, &c.

The corresponding clearances were (total) 81, with a tonnage of 21,816, of which—

United Kingdom	were	8,	with a tonnage of	1,800
American	„	17	„ „	6,107
German	„	25	„ „	6,748

The remainder were Austrian, Belgian, Italian, &c.

Of the steam vessels which entered at ports in the Colony in the year 1884, the total number was 492, with a tonnage of 411,296, of which—

United Kingdom	were	354,	with a tonnage of	355,355
German	„	138	„ „	55,941

The corresponding clearances were (total) 497, with a tonnage GOLD COAST.
of 427,712, of which—

United Kingdom	were 357, with a tonnage of 368,716
German	„ 140 „ „ 58,996

Agriculture.

It is not practicable to estimate the acreage of cultivated land in the Colony, or the uncultivated either. The principal product is oil from the palm oil tree growing wild all over the country unaided by the art of culture or assisted by the thrift of husbandry. All the same the supply seems inexhaustible and to justify the saying that Western Africa is the “oilery” of the world.

Cassada, ground nuts, and yams, with a little Indian corn, are often cultivated in the vicinities of our towns and large villages, constituting the local market edible produce of the respective localities.

That any material impetus can be given to agricultural pursuits on the Gold Coast is a result almost impossible of practical achievement. The thing has been tried over and over again and has always failed on account of the dislike to field labour so generally pervading all the working classes.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

There are no manufactures worthy the name. A few “country cloths” made with a hand spindle will summarise the industry under this head.

The mines (gold) were commenced in the year 1879 in the province of Wassaw, the extreme western district of the Gold Coast Settlement, about 50 miles due north of Axim, which latter place is the port of entry for the landing of the plant, machinery, and of all associated with the mines.

Gold is generally believed to abound pretty plentifully in Tarquah where some of the mines are situate. A considerable amount of European capital has been invested in the various enterprises, but the result has not been financially satisfactory. At the same time my information goes to establish that the unsatisfactory financial result is not due to failure in discovering the metal but to other causes, one of the principal ones being that owing to no proper road existing from Axim to Tarquah machinery has to be taken up in sections (each section being of not greater weight than four men at a time can carry). These sections of machinery travel first of all by surf boat from Axim up the River Ancobra to Tomento, and are then removed from the boat and carried by the four men through a forest swamp, over boulders and ground interlaced with roots of creepers, muddy creeks, small steep hills and ravines. The cost of this transport is enormous, as much as 25*l.* to 35*l.* per ton having been paid for it. The machinery is

GOLD COAST. fitted together in England in heavy parts which have to be separated at Axim for reduction in weight to meet the necessities of this difficult state of transport and built together again on the sites of the mines and so soon as any heavy strains are exerted on the mass in the process of "stamping" some part gives way and the works are stopped.

If a light railway or tramway were made from Axim to the mines the heavy machinery from Europe could be taken up entire and the disasters of breakdowns avoided.

The late Governor Ussher entertained and expressed the view that the mining enterprise in Tarquah should be encouraged by the local Government, as it would benefit the Colony by generally stimulating trade.

Fisheries.—The only fishing on the Gold Coast is that which is carried on in small canoes with casting nets along the coast line. Large quantities of fish are thus caught, cured by a drying process in the sun and sent up into the interior. The principal fish thus caught is the herring. A considerable fishing trade is carried on inside the Lagos lagoon and its waters; the principal catches are shrimps, which are dried and sent into the interior for sale.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The late Governor Young made many improvements in our gaol system, but I do not think much good can be done until that sympathy is eradicated which is well known to exist between the overseers and the prisoners. The "associated" system obtains in all the gaols of the Colony.

Criminal Statistics.

It will be observed that there is a large increase in the number of persons charged with offences before the magistrates as compared with that of previous years, upon which his Honour the Chief Justice remarks: "This is due in some measure to the fact that the registrar, in preparing the return for the year 1884 has, by my instructions, included therein as two persons a person charged with two offences. This alteration will, however, account for but a small part of the difference above alluded to, while the number of summary convictions have slightly increased under every head; the number of other offences has increased from 640 in 1883 to 1,860 in 1884, nearly 300 per cent. Other offences include offences against the Revenue and Health Ordinances, and it is offences against these Ordinances, particularly the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, that comprise the larger proportion of offences included under this head.

"So far, therefore, as the increase in the cases dealt with by magistrates is accounted for by the increase in the number of charges under the Revenue and Health Ordinances, so far it may

" be assumed that such increase is rather due to increased vigilance on the part of the District Commissioners than to an increase of crime. GOLD COAST.

" The largest increase in the criminal business occurs, as might be expected, in the districts where the largest towns are situate; thus in Axim, in which 99 cases were reported in 1883, 218 were reported in 1884. In Elmina in 1883 there were 238 cases, in 1884, 577. In Cape Coast in 1883 there were 316 cases, in 1884, 400. In Winnebah in 1883 there were 257 cases, in 1884, 431. In Accra in 1883 there were 524 cases, in 1884, 803. In Quittah in 1883 there were 94 cases, in 1884, 185. In Lagos, however, where in 1883 there were 785 cases, only 685 were reported in 1884.

" In the Superior Courts there has also been an increase of work, the number of prisoners tried therein in 1884 being 297 against 241 in 1883.

" There is a considerable increase in the number of offences against the person, no less than 34 persons having been indicted for murder, arising principally out of the riots which have taken place in some parts of the Colony.

" The number of offences against property tried in the Superior Courts last year is considerably less than in 1883.

" Of the 287 cases tried in the Superior Courts, 79 were tried in the Eastern Province, 123 in the Central Province, and 85 in the Western Province."

Hospitals.

There are six medical stations in the Colony, viz. :—

Axim.
Elmina.
Cape Coast.
Accra.
Quittah.
Lagos.

But of these there are only four with hospital establishments, viz. :—

Elmina.
Cape Coast.
Accra.
Lagos, the returns from which are published in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

KNAPP BARROW,
Colonial Secretary.

To his Excellency
William Brandford Griffith, C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Gold Coast.

VICTORIA.VICTORIA.

No. 2.

Governor Sir H. B. LOCH, K.C.B., to the Right Hon.
EDWARD STANHOPE, M.P.

Government House, Melbourne,
December 8, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of the digest of the
statistics of this Colony for the year 1885.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
Edward Stanhope, M.P.
&c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH.

DIGEST of the STATISTICS of VICTORIA, 1885.

By HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, C.M.G., Government Statist.

Population,
1885.

1. The estimated population of Victoria at the end of 1885*
was as follows :—

Population, 31st December 1885.

Males	-	-	-	-	529,710
Females	-	-	-	-	462,159
Total					<u>991,869</u>

One million
inhabitants in
Victoria.

2. According to this estimate, Victoria at the end of the year under review wanted 8,131 persons to make up a population of a million. It may be mentioned that this was apparently more than reached by the end of the first quarter of the following year,* also that Victoria was the first Australasian Colony to contain as many as a million inhabitants.†

* The estimated population on the 31st March 1886 was 1,001,751, viz., 526,512 males and 465,239 females.

† In New South Wales the estimated population on the 31st March 1886 was 992,875.

3. In all the Colonies the population estimates are made up by means of the numbers returned at the last census, with the addition of the excess of births over deaths and of arrivals over departures known to have occurred since the census was taken. For reasons,* however, which have often been stated by the present writer, absolute reliance cannot be placed upon numbers thus obtained, the experience being that such estimates are usually, although not invariably, too high.†

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Estimates
sometimes
unreliable.

4. A partial check upon the periodical estimates of population in Victoria is afforded by means of returns obtained from the municipal authorities, who at the time of making their valuations ought to ascertain the number of persons living upon each property rated. This is not always done correctly, and, besides, there are persons living upon properties which are not rated of whom the valuers sometimes omit to make an estimate. The aggregate population returned by the municipalities for 1885 was 959,528, which, with an allowance to bring it on to the end of the year and for districts not situated within the limits of any municipality, would give a total of 986,069, or 5,800 less than the number above quoted.

Municipal estimate of population.

5. The mean or average population of a given year is calculated by adding the estimated numbers at the beginning and end of the year and of the three intermediate quarters, and dividing their sum by 5.

Mean population, 1885.

Such a computation for 1885 gives the following result:—

Mean Population, 1885.

Males	-	-	-	-	518,994
Females	-	-	-	-	456,046
Total					<u>975,040</u>

6. According to the records of births and deaths, and of immigrants and emigrants, the apparent increase of population in 1885 was 30,593, viz., 19,051 males and 11,542 females. Of this increase, 15,611, consisting of 7,155 males and 8,456 females, resulted from excess of births over deaths; and the remainder, viz., 14,982, consisting of 11,896 males and 3,086 females, was due to excess of arrivals over departures.

Increase of population, 1885.

* These reasons are briefly as follows:—All the births are not registered; no account is kept of the arrivals and departures overland; the departures by sea are not all noted.

† When the census of 1881 was taken it was found that estimates brought on from 1871 in the manner stated gave numbers too high by 67,437 for Victoria; by 29,952 for New South Wales, and by 14,225 for Queensland. On the other hand, in South Australia the actual exceeded the estimated numbers by 10,354. See Government Statist's Report on the Census of Victoria, 1881.

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—
Increase of
population,
1871 to 1885.

The figures showing the apparent increase of population are useful for comparing the results of one year with those of another, but are not to be relied upon for individual years, they being usually higher than the actual numbers, as was made abundantly manifest by the results of the last census. The reason of this is that the number of persons who leave the Colony by sea without being recorded is greater than that of the infants whose births are not registered. This causes a constant loss in the account of population, unrecognised at the time, which can only be counter-balanced by a surplus of arrivals over departures overland, a circumstance which of late years has occurred but rarely. In 1885 the apparent increase of population was greater by 1,107 than in the previous year, and was the largest recorded during the last 15 years. Ten years ago (1875), according to the figures, the increase of population was at a minimum; but since then a marked improvement has taken place from year to year, but especially in the last two years, in each of which the apparent increase was twice as large as in 1875. The following are the figures for the last 15 years :—

Apparent Increase of Population.

1871	-	-	-	-	25,846
1872	-	-	-	-	18,282
1873	-	-	-	-	19,765
1874	-	-	-	-	17,945
1875	-	-	-	-	14,835
1876	-	-	-	-	17,028
1877	-	-	-	-	20,487
1878	-	-	-	-	18,655
1879	-	-	-	-	19,891
1880	-	-	-	-	26,157
1881	-	-	-	-	22,165
1882	-	-	-	-	23,993
1883	-	-	-	-	25,565
1884	-	-	-	-	29,486
1885	-	-	-	-	30,593

Increase by
births.

7. As practically all the deaths are registered, but some of the births escape registration, the apparent increase by the surplus of the latter over the former is always somewhat below the truth. As, however, it is probable that the proportion of unregistered births is tolerably constant from year to year, and is not very large in any year, the figures are useful. The apparent excess of births in 1885 was greater by 266 than that in 1884, and was also

greater than in any other year since 1873. The following are the numbers in the last 15 years:—

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Increase by excess of Births over Deaths.

1871	-	-	-	-	17,464
1872	-	-	-	-	16,530
1873	-	-	-	-	16,599
1874	-	-	-	-	14,578
1875	-	-	-	-	11,433
1876	-	-	-	-	13,208
1877	-	-	-	-	13,234
1878	-	-	-	-	13,879
1879	-	-	-	-	14,719
1880	-	-	-	-	14,496
1881	-	-	-	-	14,843
1882	-	-	-	-	13,113
1883	-	-	-	-	14,535
1884	-	-	-	-	15,345
1885	.	-	-	-	15,611

8. Leaving out of the question the arrivals and departures overland, of which no attempt to take an account is made, the main source of error in the estimates of population is doubtless to be found in the returns of emigration by the seaboard. The arrivals by sea are, it is believed noted with much accuracy, as also are the departures for distant countries; but, in consequence of many persons travelling from Victoria to the neighbouring Colonies without taking their passages beforehand, their names do not appear in the lists supplied by the shipping agents to the immigration authorities, and hence, although they have quitted this Colony, they are still supposed to form part of its population, for which reason the real increase by excess of arrivals over departures is always less than the figures show. This subject has often been referred to by the present writer, and has been the occasion of some correspondence between the Government Statist and the Immigration Agent in Melbourne. There is reason to believe that the records now are more accurate than they used to be, but there is no doubt that each year many persons still leave the Colony unrecorded. Attempts have been made to rectify the figures by procuring a statement of the recorded arrivals from Victoria in the neighbouring colonies, and this was for some years tolerably successful; but since the steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company have gone on to Sydney, and the Orient and Messageries lines of steamers, which, like the first named, call at Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney have been established, the plan has entirely failed; the reason being that the Melbourne passengers are not always distinguished in the returns, the authorities in Sydney frequently setting them down as coming from Colombo or England, and the authorities in Adelaide entering them as coming

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from Sydney. The desirability of the immigration authorities of the different Colonies meeting in conference for the purpose of making arrangements for keeping their accounts of immigration and emigration upon a correct and uniform principle has been urged upon the Government by the Government Statist, but this recommendation has not yet been adopted. In the meantime, the figures, which are as follows for the last 15 years, and which it will be observed, show an increase for 1885 of 841 over the number of 1884 and a much larger increase than that shown for any other year of the period must be taken only for what they may be worth :—

Increase by Excess of Arrivals over Departures.

1871	-	-	-	-	8,382
1872	-	-	-	-	1,752
1873	-	-	-	-	3,166
1874	-	-	-	-	3,367
1875	-	-	-	-	3,402
1876	-	-	-	-	3,820
1877	-	-	-	-	7,253
1878	-	-	-	-	4,776
1879	-	-	-	-	5,172
1880	-	-	-	-	11,661
1881	-	-	-	-	7,322
1882	-	-	-	-	10,880
1883	-	-	-	-	11,030
1884	-	-	-	-	14,141
1885	-	-	-	-	14,982

Population of
Australasian
Colonies.

The following table shows the estimated population of each Australasian Colony at the end of 1884 and 1885, and the increase of each during the 12 months :—

Populations of the Australasian Colonies, 1884 and 1885.

Colony.	Estimated Population at end of—		Increase.
	1884.	1885.	
Victoria - - -	961,276	991,869	30,593
New South Wales - - -	921,268	980,573	59,305
Queensland - - -	309,913	326,916	17,003
South Australia - - -	312,781	319,769	6,988
Western Australia - - -	32,958	35,186	2,228
Total - - -	2,538,196	2,654,313	116,117
Tasmania - - -	180,541	183,791	3,250
New Zealand - - -	564,304	582,420	18,116
Grand Total - - -	3,283,041	3,370,524	137,483

NOTE. The population in this table is exclusive of aborigines, except a few in Victoria and New South Wales.

10. During the four years and nine months which intervened between the census of 1881 and the end of 1885 it is estimated that the following increases took place in the populations of the different Colonies:—

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Increase of
Australasian
populations
since census.

Increase of Australasian Populations, 1881 to 1885.

Colony.	Population. Census of 1881.*	Increase in 4½ years.	
		Numerical.	Centesimal.
Victoria - - - -	862,346	129,523	15·02
New South Wales - - -	751,468	229,105	30·49
Queensland - - - -	213,525	113,391	53·10
South Australia - - -	279,865	89,904	14·26
Western Australia - -	29,708	5,478	18·44
Total - - - -	2,136,912	517,401	24·21
Tasmania - - - -	115,705	18,086	15·68
New Zealand - - - -	489,933	92,487	18·88
Grand Total - - - -	2,742,550	627,974	22·90

* Exclusive of aborigines, except a few in Victoria and New South Wales.

11. Judging from the increases shown in the table, it may fairly be estimated that when the next simultaneous census of the colonies is taken, viz., in 1891, the inhabitants of the Australian continent with the addition of Tasmania and New Zealand will be found to exceed 4,000,000.

Probable
Australasian
populations,
1891.

12. The following table has been constructed upon the assumption that the respective nationalities existed in 1885 in the same proportion to the total population of that year as they did when the census was taken to the total population then enumerated:—

Birthplaces,
1885.

Birthplaces of the People of Victoria, 1885 (estimated).

Birthplace.	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Victoria - - - -	284,149	279,739	563,888
Other Australasian Colonies - - -	21,953	23,076	45,029
England and Wales - - - -	98,038	69,000	167,038
Scotland - - - -	30,102	24,398	54,500
Ireland - - - -	47,332	50,576	97,908
Other British Possessions - - - -	6,955	4,515	11,470
Germany - - - -	7,110	2,691	9,801
The United States - - - -	1,920	775	2,695
China - - - -	13,494	45	13,539
Other foreign countries - - - -	7,941	1,231	9,172
Total - - - -	518,994	456,046	975,040
<i>Allegiance.</i>			
British subjects (by birth) - - -	488,529	451,303	939,832
Foreign subjects - - - -	30,465	4,743	35,208

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Probable present number of native Victorians.

Religions, 1885.

13. It should be remarked that although in the absence of later information it has been necessary to construct this table according to the proportions which prevailed when the last census was taken there can be little doubt that changes have taken place in the relative proportions of the different nationalities since then, and it is probable that the native Victorians number at least 600,000.

14. The next table contains a statement of the estimated number of persons of different religions in Victoria about the middle of 1885, the proportions which those of each religion bear to the total population being identical with those obtaining at the last census :—

Religions of the People, 1885 (estimated).

Religious Denominations.	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England - - - -	123,914	163,173	352,087
Presbyterians - - - -	78,887	70,962	149,849
Methodists - - - -	62,124	60,380	122,504
Independents - - - -	11,314	11,128	22,442
Baptists - - - -	11,158	11,857	23,015
Other Protestants - - - -	16,919	12,313	29,232
Roman Catholics - - - -	115,632	114,285	229,917
Jews - - - -	2,751	2,143	4,894
Pagans - - - -	12,767	46	12,813
Other sects - - - -	18,528	9,759	28,287
Total - - - -	518,994	456,046	975,040

Ages, 1885.

15. In the following table the numbers of either sex have been carefully brought on in quinquennial periods of age from the census of 1881 by means of a calculation based upon the age at which the survivors of those then returned and born since must have arrived about the middle of 1885, the numbers being supplemented by the excess of arrivals over departures, as recorded by the immigration authorities, the ages of those composing such excess having been estimated.

Ages of the People, 1885 (estimated).

Ages.	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years - - - -	60,869	58,250	119,119
5 to 10 " - - - -	57,531	55,367	112,898
10 to 15 " - - - -	56,225	55,193	111,418
15 to 20 " - - - -	57,382	54,214	111,596
20 to 25 " - - - -	57,880	53,707	111,537
25 to 30 " - - - -	45,947	41,536	87,483
30 to 35 " - - - -	28,314	24,907	53,221
35 to 40 " - - - -	23,136	21,204	44,340

Religious Denominations.	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
40 to 45 years - - - -	24,181	20,968	45,094
45 to 50 " - - - -	26,069	20,441	46,510
50 to 55 " - - - -	27,585	18,198	45,783
55 to 60 " - - - -	23,418	18,320	36,738
60 to 65 " - - - -	13,211	7,773	20,984
65 to 70 " - - - -	9,586	5,672	15,258
70 to 75 " - - - -	4,225	2,741	6,966
75 to 80 " - - - -	2,268	1,643	3,911
80 years and upwards -	1,273	917	2,189
Total - - - -	518,994	456,046	975,040

16. The occupations of the people of Victoria have been brought on by proportion to about the middle of 1885, in the same manner as the birthplaces and religions.

Occupations of the People, 1885 (estimated).

Occupations of the People.	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ministering to government - - -	5,449	274	5,723
" religion - - - -	1,246	228	1,474
" health - - - -	2,332	1,779	4,011
" law - - - -	1,453	—	1,453
" education - - - -	3,062	4,652	7,714
" art, science, and literature -	3,010	1,186	4,196
Traders - - - -	16,608	2,189	18,797
Assisting in exchange of money or commodities - - - -	7,681	730	8,411
Ministering to entertaining and clothing -	17,023	30,145	47,168
Domestic servants - - - -	3,373	24,807	27,680
Contractors, artisans, and mechanics -	53,249	1,185	54,434
Miners - - - -	40,897	—	40,897
Engaged in pursuits subsidiary to mining -	986	—	986
" pastoral pursuits and agriculture -	89,423	46,106	135,529
" pursuits subsidiary to grazing and agriculture -	3,841	1,140	4,981
" land carriage - - - -	16,712	365	17,077
" sea navigation - - - -	3,789	46	3,835
Dealing in food - - - -	16,089	1,961	18,050
Labourers - - - -	27,610	—	27,610
Engaged in miscellaneous pursuits - - -	1,090	91	1,181
Of independent means - - - -	2,751	1,277	4,028
Wives, widows, children, relatives, scholars -	192,754	334,281	527,035
Public burthen - - - -	17,365	4,058	11,323
Of no occupation, unspecified - - -	1,401	46	1,447
Total - - - -	518,994	456,046	975,040

17. In the absence of accurate information of a recent date this table, like the tables of birthplaces and religions in 1885, Falling off in number of miners.

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has necessarily been constructed according to the proportions prevailing at the census; but there is no doubt that important changes have taken place since then, consequently the figures in the table must be taken only for what they may be worth. The miners especially, which were returned at the census as numbering 36,066, instead of having increased with the population as shown in the table, are believed by the Mining Department to have fallen off to 26,192. The latter number only refers to gold miners, but the miners for other metals or minerals only number about 300, and therefore could affect the total to no more than that extent.

Aborigines.

18. At the first colonization of the district now called Victoria, the aborigines were officially estimated to number about 5,000, but according to other and apparently more reliable estimates they numbered at that time not less than 15,000. When the Colony was separated from New South Wales the number was officially stated to be 2,693. According to the census of 1881 the number had become reduced to 780, viz., 460 males and 320 females. The existence of the few that still remain alive has no political or social significance whatever. The race will probably become extinct in the course of a few years.

Increasing proportion of metropolitan population.

19. In 1885 the population of Melbourne, the metropolis of Victoria, was equal to more than 35 per cent. of that of the whole Colony. This proportion has a tendency to increase, as will be observed by the following figures:—

Proportion of Population of Melbourne and Suburbs to Total Population of Victoria.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1861 -	- 25·89	1881 -	- 32·81
1871 -	- 28·87	1885 -	- 35·42

Area and population of metropolitan sub-districts.

20. The following table shows the estimated area in acres, the estimated population, and the number of persons to the acre in each of the cities, towns, and boroughs comprised in greater Melbourne:—

Melbourne and Suburbs—Area and Population, 1885.

Sub-districts.	Estimated area in Acres.*	Year 1885.	
		Mean Population.	Persons to the Acre.
Melbourne City - - - -	5,020	70,873	14·1
Hotham Town - - - -	565	19,508†	34·5
Fitzroy City - - - -	923	27,829	30·2
Collingwood City - - - -	1,139	26,711	23·5
Richmond City - - - -	1,420	28,541	19·9
Brunswick Borough - - - -	2,722	8,396	3·1
Northcote Borough - - - -	2,850	2,500	·9
Prahran City - - - -	2,820	28,637	12·8

* Exclusive of water, which covers an area of 37,120 acres.

† Including the Benevolent Asylum.

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Sub-districts.	Estimated area in Acres.*	Year 1885.	
		Mean Population.	Persons to the Acre.
South Melbourne City - - -	2,311	33,500	14.5
Port Melbourne Borough - - -	2,366	9,675	4.1
St. Kilda Borough - - -	1,886	15,300	8.1
Brighton Borough - - -	3,288	5,795	1.8
Essendon Borough - - -	4,000	5,550	1.4
Flemington and Kensington Borough -	1,088	4,864	4.5
Hawthorn Borough - - -	2,389	8,811	3.7
Kew Borough - - -	3,553	6,000	1.7
Footscray Borough - - -	3,075	9,016	2.9
Williamstown Borough - - -	2,775	11,600	4.2
Remainder of district - - -	120,242	20,796	.2
Total - - -	163,942	343,902	2.1
Shipping in Hobson's Bay and River -	—	1,478†	—
Total population, including shipping - - -	—	345,380	—

* Exclusive of water, which covers an area of 37,120 acres.

† Census figures.

21. It will be observed that Melbourne within its corporate limits is estimated to contain 70,900* inhabitants, and is more than twice as populous as South Melbourne, which has a larger population than any other of the suburban municipalities. The most populous suburbs are, South Melbourne (Emerald Hill) with 33,500 inhabitants; Prahran, Richmond, and Fitzroy, with 28,600, 28,500, and 27,800 respectively, and Collingwood with 26,700. Flemington and Kensington and Northcote are the least populous of the suburban boroughs, and the only ones having less than 5,000 inhabitants.

Populations of suburban municipalities.

22. The density of the population of each of the component parts of Greater Melbourne is shown in the last column of the table. It will be noticed that the most thickly populated municipality is Hotham, with 34½ persons to the acre; then Fitzroy, with 30 to the acre; Collingwood, with 23½; Richmond, with 20; and Melbourne City and South Melbourne, with 14 persons to the acre. In explanation of the fact that some of the suburbs are more densely populated than the city, it will be remembered that large numbers of people who come to business spend their days in the latter, but have their residences, and would therefore be enumerated in the former. It should also be remarked that, in some of the municipalities, extensive parks, gardens, and other public reserves exist, so that the population is really living in closer proximity than the figures indicate. Melbourne City contains 1,750 acres of such reserves; Kew, 648 acres; South Melbourne, 472 acres; Williamstown, 413 acres; Richmond, 196 acres; Fitzroy, 42 acres; and Collingwood,

Density of metropolitan population.

* This represents only the number who pass the night in the city.

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Population of
chief extra-
metropolitan
towns.

only 22 acres. If the reserves be excluded the persons to the acre in the places named would be as follows:—Fitzroy, 31·6; Collingwood, 23·9; Richmond, 23·1; Melbourne City, 21·7; South Melbourne, 18·2; Williamstown, 4·9; Kew, 2·1.

23. Next to the municipalities embraced under the head of greater Melbourne, the most important towns in Victoria are:—Ballarat, comprising three municipalities; Sandhurst, comprising two; Geelong, comprising three; and Castlemaine, comprising two municipalities. The estimated populations of these with their immediate suburbs, in 1885, were as follows:—

Population of Four Extra-Metropolitan Towns, 1885.

Town.	Population.	Town.	Population.
Ballarat - - -	41,110	Geelong - - -	20,890
Sandhurst - - -	36,570	Castlemaine - - -	9,400

Population of
Australia and
Australasia.

24. At the end of 1885 there were on the continent of Australia nearly 2,700,000 inhabitants; and in Australasia, including not only the continental colonies but also Tasmania and New Zealand, there were nearly 3,400,000. The estimated numbers, as well as the proportions of the sexes and the density of population in each of the five years ended with 1885, were as follow:—

Population of Australia and Australasia, 1881 to 1885.

	Year.	Estimated Population on the 31st December.			Females to 100 Males.	Persons to the Square Mile.
		Males.	Females.	Total.		
Continent of Australia	1881	1,196,938	1,010,964	2,206,902	84·51	·750
	1882	1,246,296	1,060,926	2,296,222	84·39	·790
	1883	1,332,165	1,102,625	2,424,790	83·40	·823
	1884	1,387,857	1,150,339	2,538,196	83·69	·863
	1885	1,456,338	1,197,975	2,654,313	82·26	·901
Ditto, with Tasmania and New Zealand	1881	1,534,158	1,292,477	2,826,635	84·25	·919
	1882	1,593,729	1,342,680	2,936,409	84·25	·965
	1883	1,683,802	1,403,085	3,091,887	83·62	1·005
	1884	1,763,604	1,469,377	3,233,041	83·51	1·051
	1885	1,843,444	1,527,080	3,370,524	82·84	1·096

Sexes diverg-
ing from
equality.

25. According to the experience of the five years named, the proportionate excess of males over females shows a tendency to increase rather than to diminish, both on the Australian continent and in the whole of Australasia.

26. The arrivals and departures by sea recorded during 1885, also the excess of the former over the latter, were as follows:—

VICTORIA.

Immigration and emigration, 1885.

Immigration and Emigration.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arrivals by sea - - -	53,291	23,685	76,976
Departures by sea - - -	41,895	20,599	61,994
Excess of arrivals - - -	11,896	3,086	14,982

27. The records of arrivals show larger numbers for 1885 than for 1884 by 4,774, and the records of departures show larger numbers for 1885 than for 1884 by 3,933; the apparent total gain by excess of immigration over emigration was therefore greater in the year under review than the previous one by 841.

Gain by immigration, 1884 and 1885, compared.

28. In the 12 years 1871 to 1882, 5,547 immigrants from the United Kingdom had free or partially free passages granted them to Victoria. Of these 3,212, or 58 per cent., arrived in the first year, and 5,168, or 93 per cent., in the first three years of the period alluded to. The number then declined rapidly from year to year, and since 1873 only 379 such immigrants have arrived. Of these only 5, all females, came in 1880, not one in 1881, and only two in 1882. Since 1882 no free or assisted emigrants have been introduced by the State, so that the system may be said to have entirely ceased. The following are the numbers of assisted immigrants of either sex who have arrived in Victoria during each year of the period referred to:—

State-assisted immigration.

Assisted and Free Immigration, 1871 to 1882.

Year.	Assisted and Free Immigrants.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 - - - - -	1,413	1,799	3,212
1872 - - - - -	468	625	1,093
1873 - - - - -	456	407	863
1874 - - - - -	64	85	149
1875 - - - - -	50	52	102
1876 - - - - -	34	37	71
1877 - - - - -	9	8	17
1878 - - - - -	8	10	18
1879 - - - - -	7	8	15
1880 - - - - -	—	5	5
1881 - - - - -	—	—	—
1882 - - - - -	—	2	2
Total - - - - -	2,509	3,038	5,547

NOTE.—Since 1882 no free or assisted immigrants have been introduced.

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Government
finance ac-
count, 1884-5.

29. During the year ended 30th June 1885 the revenue of Victoria exceeded the expenditure by 150,000*l.*, and a credit balance of 314,000*l.* having been brought forward from the previous year, it follows that the credit balance carried forward to 1885-6 amounted to 464,000*l.* :—

*Revenue and Expenditure of Victoria, 1884-5.**

	£	s.	d.
Receipts - - -	6,290,361	3	11
Expenditure - - -	6,140,356	12	1
<hr/>			
Receipts in excess of expenditure - - -	150,004	11	10
Credit balance from 1883-4 -	314,073	15	5
<hr/>			
Credit balance carried forward to 1885-6 - - -	464,078	7	3

Excess of
receipts and
contrary.

30. It has been shown that during the year under review there was a surplus of revenue amounting to 150,005*l.* If, however, recoups and advances to be recouped which do not properly form part of the transactions of the year, but are included for the sake of convenience, be deducted from the revenue and expenditure respectively, the actual surplus will be increased to 164,120*l.* This was the fifth occasion during the last 12 years on which the receipts were in excess of the expenditure. The following figures show the surplus or deficiency in each of those years the advances to be recouped and the recoups being left out of the account :—

Surplus or Deficiency of Revenue, 1873-4 to 1884-5.

	Receipts in excess of Expenditure.	Expenditure in excess of Receipts.
	£	£
1873-74 - - - -	—	80,485
1874-75 - - - -	—	126,949
1875-76 - - - -	—	84,131
1876-77 - - - -	177,599	—
1877-78 - - - -	—	50,400
1878-79 - - - -	—	274,504
1879-80 - - - -	—	205,310
1880-81 - - - -	14,079	—
1881-82 - - - -	417,308	—
1882-83 - - - -	—	49,819
1883-84 - - - -	219,285	—
1884-85 - - - -	164,620	—

* According to a statement distributed to members of the Legislative Assembly on the 20th July, 1886, by the honorable the Treasurer, the revenue of 1885-6 was 6,416,405*l.*, and the expenditure was 6,605,901*l.* The estimated mean population of the same 12 months was 991,640 ; so that the revenue per head was 6*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure per head 6*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* It was understood that the figures in the statement referred to were not final.

31. According to these figures, the total transactions of the 12 years resulted in a net credit balance of 151,293*l*. To this should be added the credit balance at the commencement of the period, which was sufficient to admit of the large amount of 464,000*l*. being carried forward to the credit of 1885-6 as already shown.

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Credit balance
in 12 years.

32. The total revenue raised in 1884-5 was 355,674*l*. in excess of that of the previous year; but by making allowances for receipts from sources not common to both years, the excess is reduced to 78,300*l*. thus:—

Revenue, 1883-4 and 1884-5 compared.

Comparative Revenues, 1883-4 and 1884-5.

	1883-4.	1884-5.
	£	£
Total revenue - - -	5,934,687	6,290,361
Deduct recoups, &c. - - -	109	—
Revenue proper - - -	5,934,578	6,290,361
Deduct amounts from sources not common to both years - - -	—	277,475
Comparative amounts - - -	5,934,578	6,012,886

33. The revenue of 1884-5 was the largest ever raised in Victoria. It exceeded the revenue of 1883-4, which was the year in which the largest revenue had previously been realised, by over 355,000*l*., as already stated, and exceeded the revenue of 1882-3, which was the year in which the next highest revenue had been raised, by over 460,000*l*.

Revenue, 1884-5 and previous years.

34. The expenditure of 1884-5 also was above that of any previous year, it being greater than in 1883-4, the year in which the next largest expenditure occurred, by 425,000*l*. Prior to 1853, the annual expenditure never exceeded one million sterling; from 1853 to 1872-3 it usually fluctuated between two and three millions; from 1873-4 to 1879-80 it was between four and four and three quarter millions; from 1880-81 to 1883-4 it ranged from five to nearly five and three quarter millions; and in 1884-5, for the first time, it exceeded six millions sterling.

Expenditure, 1884-5 and former years.

35. The revenue per head in 1884-5 (6*l*. 11*s*.) was greater by 3*s*. 6*d*., and the expenditure per head (6*l*. 7*s*. 11*d*.) greater by 5*s*. 2*d*., than in the previous year. The former, moreover, was larger than in any previous year since 1857; whilst the latter was larger than in any year since 1859. In proportion to population, both revenue and expenditure declined pretty steadily

Revenue and expenditure per head.

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Heads of revenue 1883-4, and 1884-5.

year by year from 1862 to 1872-3, but in 1873-4 an augmentation took place, which has been maintained ever since.

36. The various sources from which the revenue of Victoria is derived may be grouped in five main divisions, viz.:—Taxation, Land, Public Works, Post and Telegraphs, and other sources. The following is a statement of the amounts received under various heads in each of those divisions during the last two financial years, together with the increase or decrease under each head:—

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1883-4.	1884-5.		
TAXATION.				
	£	£	£	£
Customs duties (including also wharfage rates) - - -	1,769,108	1,919,539	150,431	—
Excise - - - - -	123,654	141,225	17,571	—
Ports and harbours (chiefly tonnage dues) - - - - -	30,871	31,176	305	—
Licenses (business) - - -	31,623	32,535	912	—
Duties on estates of deceased persons - - - - -	77,154	124,370	47,216	—
Duties on bank notes - - -	28,575	27,529	—	1,046
Stamp duty - - - - -	133,651	143,382	9,731	—
Land tax - - - - -	123,884	128,415	4,531	—
Total - - - - -	2,318,520	2,548,171	229,651	—
LAND REVENUE.				
Land sales (including rents counting towards purchase money) -	614,548	555,507	—	59,041
Rents of Crown lands (not counting towards purchase money) -	103,189	110,777	7,588	—
Penalties under Land Acts -	1,572	273	—	1,299
Total - - - - -	719,309	666,557	—	52,752
PUBLIC WORKS.				
Railways - - - - -	2,079,249	2,200,067	120,818	—
Water supply - - - - -	165,083	165,968	985	—
Other public works - - -	1,866	3,325	1,459	—
Total - - - - -	2,246,148	2,369,360	123,212	—
POST AND TELEGRAPHS.				
Postal receipts, &c. - - -	262,322	289,630	27,308	—
Telegraph receipts, &c. - -	86,956	90,926	3,970	—
Total - - - - -	349,278	380,556	31,278	—

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Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1883-4.	1884-5.		
OTHER SOURCES.	£	£	£	£
Mint charges - - -	10,415	13,042	2,627	—
Mint subsidy returned - -	4,852	5,304	452	—
Fees, fines, &c. (inclusive of fee stamps) - - -	111,695	123,428	11,733	—
Interest on public account -	85,587	98,341	12,804	—
Rents (other than Crown lands) -	3,058	2,031	—	1,027
Reimbursements in aid - -	49,441	52,232	2,791	—
Miscellaneous receipts - -	36,325	31,339	—	4,986
Total - - -	301,823	325,717	24,894	—
Total Revenue Proper -	5,934,578	6,290,361	355,783	—
Recoups or assets realised	109	—	—	109
Grand total -	5,934,687	6,290,361	355,674	—

37. It will be observed that the increase in the revenue proper of 1884-85 as compared with that of the previous year, amounting in all to 355,700*l.*, was the net result of an increase of 229,600*l.* under the head of taxation, 123,200*l.* under the head of public works, 31,300*l.* under the head of post and telegraphs, and 24,400*l.* under the head of other sources, less a decrease of 52,800*l.* in the land revenue. In the public works division the largest increase was 120,800*l.*, in the revenue from railways, which, however, is not quite equal to what might have been expected, viz, 137,150*l.*, from the increased length of lines open for traffic. Notwithstanding the reductions made in the rates of postage on newspapers and packets, and in the charges for telegrams to the neighbouring Colonies, it is satisfactory to note an increase of 31,300*l.* in the revenue from post and telegraphs. The increase in the amount raised by taxation will be subsequently referred to. The decrease in the land revenue resulted from a falling off of 59,000*l.* in land sales, and 1,300*l.* in penalties, as against which an increase of 7,600*l.* occurred in the receipts from rent for temporary occupation.

Increased revenue, 1884-5, under various heads.

38. In addition to the ordinary expenditure from revenue, large sums are annually disbursed for various purposes from amounts raised by means of loans. The following table shows the details

Expenditure of loans.

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of such expenditure prior to 1879-80 and during each subsequent year :

Expenditure of Net Proceeds of Loans to 30th June 1885.

Purposes of Expenditure.	Amounts Expended.							Total.
	Prior to 1879-80.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	
Railways -	£ 13,723,306	£ 1,240,668	£ 618,427	£ 794,468	£ 2,187,183	£ 1,191,133	£ 848,358	£ 30,603,541
Water supply -	8,033,764	121,476	63,415	146,903	367,416	304,585	173,444	4,213,023
Alfred dock, gravings.	341,819	—	—	—	—	—	—	341,819
Law Courts and Parliament Houses.	135,708	78,425	63,821	67,953	44,840	45,505	568	436,834
Public offices -	161,146	1,123	11	—	—	—	—	162,280
Defences -	98,299	—	—	—	—	—	—	98,299
State school buildings.	603,316	66,066	84,831	50,693	56,651	36,923	81,933	960,465
Yarra Bridge -	—	—	—	1,500	300	8,382	3,663	13,845
Harbour works, &c.	—	—	—	—	400	13,706	46,077	60,183
Total -	18,097,352	1,507,778	830,506	1,061,516	2,656,810	1,600,233	1,153,065	26,910,259

Revenue and expenditure of Australia and Australasia.

39. The following table contains a statement of the revenue and expenditure of Australia and Australasia in 1884, also the proportions per head of population :—

Revenue and Expenditure of Australia and Australasia, 1884.

	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.
Continent of Australia -	£ 18,041,080	£ s. d. 7 6 4	£ 18,009,831	£ s. d. 7 6 0
Ditto, with Tasmania and New Zealand -	22,297,830	7 1 9	22,695,196	7 4 3

Increased revenue of Australasia in 11 years.

40. A comparison of the aggregate revenue of the Colonies upon the Australian continent in 1873 and in 1884 shows that in the 11 years it had risen from 9,161,000*l.* to 18,010,000*l.* the increase being nearly 9 millions sterling, or 97 per cent. If the revenues of Tasmania and New Zealand be added, the sums shows an aggregate revenue for the whole of Australasia of 12,262,000*l.* at the former, and of 22,298,000*l.* at the latter, period, the increase

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being over 10 millions, or 82 per cent. In the same 12 years, the population of the Australian continent increased from 1,702,840 to 2,538,200, or 49 per cent., and the population of the whole of Australasia increased from 2,103,000, to 3,233,040 or 54 per cent.

41. The following is a comparative statement of the amounts received under various heads of revenue in the respective Australasian Colonies during the most recent year for which the particulars are available. The figures have all been derived from official sources :—

Heads of revenue of Australasian Colonies.

Heads of Revenue in Australasian Colonies, 1884.

Heads of Revenue.	Victoria (1884-5).	New South Wales.	Queens- land (1884-5).	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tas- mania.	New Zealand.
TAXATION.							
Customs, &c. -	£ 1,919,539	£ 1,736,811	£ 937,225	£ 515,035	£ 117,478	£ 254,946	£ 1,409,343
Excise -	141,225	79,997	32,014	2,454	—	13,943	55,962
Licenses (business) -	32,535	190,023	50,733	28,363	4,791	12,545	235,450
Stamp duties, &c. -	295,281	226,049	105,566	17,969	4,969	25,651	64,739
Land and property taxes.	123,415	—	—	—	—	30,236	—
Tonnage, &c. -	31,176	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous -	—	—	—	—	100	6,961	—
Total -	2,548,171	2,152,855	1,125,537	563,841	127,338	344,192	1,765,474
LAND REVENUE.							
Alienation in fee simple and progressive.	555,507	1,365,483	328,423	279,781	16,220	50,544	196,065
Pastoral and mining occupations.	80,125	} 380,760	} 272,157	{ 75,408 39,781	} 76,539	} 14,963	{ 219,692 11,596
Miscellaneous -	30,925						
Total -	666,557	1,753,243	600,579	395,010	92,789	65,507	427,373
PUBLIC WORKS.							
Railways and tramways.	2,200,067	2,302,014	664,535	608,243	19,543	43,476	1,045,325
Water supply -	165,968	—	—	68,530	—	—	15,763
Other public works -	3,325	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	2,369,360	2,302,014	664,535	676,773	19,543	43,476	1,060,968
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.							
Postal receipts -	269,630	301,434	96,901	105,745	8,752	26,065	182,699
Telegraph receipts -	90,928	141,530	75,394	78,432	3,762	9,189	92,213
Total -	360,558	442,964	160,195	184,177	12,514	35,254	274,902
OTHER SOURCES.							
Mint receipts -	13,246	9,790	—	—	—	—	—
Fees, fines, &c. -	123,428	96,078	29,357	53,464	5,231	12,686	117,701
Interest on public account.	96,341	28,639	83,023	45,412	12,724	23,063	9,577
Rents (other than land).	2,051	53,185	1,226	1,926	1,665	3,742	—
Pilotage, harbour, and light rates.	—	54,823	19,739	16,964	2,918	—	2,516
Public school fees -	—	56,319	—	25,257	—	—	—
Miscellaneous -	83,571	165,682	27,406	62,994	15,627	16,283	49,157
Total -	325,717	406,516	160,810	205,127	38,165	60,903	178,751
Grand total -	6,290,361	7,117,592	2,720,656	2,024,928	290,319	540,283	3,707,488

42. In this table the large amount raised by excise duties in Victoria and the comparatively small amount in the other Colonies will be at once noticed ; also the fact that the land tax in Victoria

Excise and Land Tax in Victoria.

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produced twice as much as the property tax of New Zealand. It is stated, however, that if the full amount payable in respect to the latter had been duly received it would have exceeded 150,000*l.*, or more than the former by 22,000*l.*

Heads of revenue in Victoria and New South Wales compared.

43. It will further be remarked that the land revenue was nearly three times as large in New South Wales as in Victoria, which item alone accounts for the larger total revenue of the former Colony. Indeed, if the land revenues be deducted from the total revenues of the two Colonies, the revenue of Victoria would exceed that of New South Wales by 260,000*l.*, the respective amounts for 1884 being 5,624,000*l.* and 5,364,000*l.* It also appears that, whilst the railway revenue of Victoria is less by 100,000*l.* than that of New South Wales, in both cases it forms about one third of the total revenue. The total taxation of Victoria was greater than that of New South Wales by about 395,000*l.*, or nearly a fifth, under which head "licenses" produced 88,000*l.* more in New South Wales than in Victoria; but the Customs revenue of the latter was the greater by nearly 200,000*l.*, the revenue from Excise by 61,000*l.*, and the revenue from stamp duties by 69,000*l.*, whilst the Victorian land tax, which has no parallel in the neighbouring Colony, brought in a further sum of 128,000*l.* Under other heads, the revenue from post and telegraphs, rents (exclusive of lands), and miscellaneous sources, preponderated in New South Wales, but mint receipts, fees and fines, &c., and interest in favour of Victoria.

Land revenue in Australasian Colonies.

44. In 1884 the aggregate land revenue of the Australasian Colonies amounted to over 4,000,000*l.*, of which nearly 2,800,000*l.* was received for alienation, and over 1,200,000*l.* for temporary occupation, &c. The following table derived from the preceding one shows the receipts from the sale and occupation of Crown lands and their proportion to the total revenue in each Australasian Colony during 1884. The Colonies are arranged in order according to that proportion:—

Land Revenue in Australasian Colonies, 1884.

Colony.	Revenue derived from Crown Lands for—			Proportion of Land Revenue to total Revenue.
	Alienation in Fee-simple and progressive Alienation.	Temporary Occupation and Miscellaneous.	Total.	
	£	£	£	Per cent.
1. Western Australia -	16,220	76,539	92,759	31·9
2. New South Wales -	1,363,483	389,760	1,753,243	24·6
3. Queensland -	328,422	272,157	600,579	22·0
4. South Australia -	279,731	115,279	395,010	19·5
5. Tasmania -	50,544	14,963	65,507	11·9
6. New Zealand -	196,085	231,288	427,373	11·5
7. Victoria -	555,507	111,050	666,557	10·6
Total -	2,789,992	1,211,036	4,001,028	17·6

45. It will be noticed that over a sixth of the aggregate revenues of the Australasian Colonies in 1884 was derived from Crown lands; and that the proportion averaged between a ninth and a tenth in Tasmania, New Zealand, and Victoria; about a fifth in South Australia and Queensland; nearly a fourth in New South Wales; and to nearly a third in Western Australia. It will also be remarked that in all the Colonies, except Western Australia and New Zealand, the bulk of the land revenue was derived from alienation in fee simple.

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Prospective
diminution of
land revenue
in Colonies.

46. The total land revenue of the Australasian Colonies amounted in 1878 to 5,814,388*l.*, in 1879 to 3,565,349*l.*, in 1880 to 3,802,143*l.*, in 1881 to 5,744,306*l.*, in 1882 to 5,458,963*l.*, in 1883 to 4,042,722*l.*, and in 1884, as shown before, to 4,001,028*l.* In 1878 the proportion to the total revenue was 33 per cent.; in 1879, 22½ per cent.; in 1880 only 17½ per cent.; in 1881, 27 per cent.; in 1882, 25 per cent.; in 1883, 18½ per cent.; and in 1884, to 17½ per cent. In 1884, as compared with 1883, a decrease of over 70,000*l.* occurred in Queensland, of over 50,000*l.* in Victoria, and of nearly 40,000*l.*, in South Australia; but, on the other hand, increases amounting to nearly 100,000*l.*, and 30,000*l.* took place in New South Wales and New Zealand respectively.

Fluctuations in
land revenue in
Australasia.

47. Of the 22½ millions sterling which formed the total revenue of the Australasian Colonies in 1884, 8½ millions, or considerably over one third, was raised by taxation, chiefly through the Customs; nearly 6½ millions or nearly one third was derived from railways, 4 millions from Crown lands, and 1½ millions from post and telegraphs. The following are the exact figures, also the amounts per head, distinguishing those relating to continental Australia from those relating to the Australasian Colonies taken as a whole:—

Sources of re-
venue in Aus-
traliasia.

Heads of Revenue in Australia and Australasia, 1884.

Heads of Revenue.	Continent of Australia.		Australia, with Tasmania and New Zealand.	
	Amount.	Amount per Head.	Amount.	Amount per Head.
Taxation—	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Customs - -	5,045,258	2 0 11	6,709,547	2 2 8
Other taxes - -	1,307,741	0 9 10	1,757,140	0 11 2
Total - -	6,252,999	2 10 9	8,466,687	2 13 10
Crown lands - -	3,593,994	1 9 2	4,042,996	1 5 8
Railways - -	5,641,184	2 5 9	6,729,885	2 2 9
Post and telegraphs -	1,152,256	0 9 4	1,462,442	0 9 4
Other sources - -	1,400,647	0 11 4	1,595,820	0 10 2
Total - -	18,041,080	7 6 4	22,297,880	7 1 9

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Heads of expenditure in Australasian Colonies.

48. The following is a comparative statement of the amounts expended under a few of the principal heads in the respective Colonies during the most recent year for which the particulars are available :—

Heads of Expenditure in Australasian Colonies, 1884.

Heads of Expenditure.	Victoria (1884-5).	New South Wales.	Queensland (1884-5).	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways - -	1,409,988	1,451,489	408,236	406,935	19,479	52,738	639,088
Posts and telegraphs	534,373	473,244	282,755	200,628	26,180	54,048	250,577
Interest on public debt, &c.	1,271,907	1,071,066	732,135	606,734	33,560	137,899	1,699,764
Immigration - -	—	50,810	11,334	33,641	20,000	—	—
Other services -	2,924,063	3,307,570	1,385,393	1,150,923	192,068	339,362	1,512,003
Total - -	6,140,366	6,853,189	2,819,553	2,398,191	291,307	584,047	4,101,318

Heads of expenditure in Australasian Colonies compared.

49. It will be observed that the railway expenditure was larger by 40,000*l.* in New South Wales than in Victoria, and in each of those Colonies it amounted to close on 1½ millions sterling, or between a fourth and a fifth of the total expenditure ; but the interest on the public debt and the expenditure on post and telegraphs in Victoria were the larger by 200,000*l.* and 62,000*l.* respectively. The interest in the public debt in Victoria, however, was not nearly so large as in New Zealand, where it amounted to nearly 1,700,000*l.*, or to over two fifths of the total expenditure.

Heads of expenditure in Australasia.

50. The following is a summary of the aggregate expenditure under the various heads referred to for Australia and Australasia :—

Heads of Expenditure in Australia and Australasia, 1884.

Heads of Expenditure.	Continent of Australia.		Australia, with Tasmania and New Zealand.	
	Amount.	Amount per Head.	Amount.	Amount per Head.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Railways - - -	3,401,975	1 7 7	4,093,798	1 6 0
Post and telegraphs - -	1,481,739	0 12 0	1,786,164	0 11 4
Interest on public debt, &c. -	3,635,695	1 9 6	5,473,358	1 14 10
Immigration - - -	116,022	0 0 11	116,022	0 0 9
Other services - - -	9,374,400	3 16 0	11,225,854	3 11 4
Total - - -	18,009,831	7 6 0	22,695,196	7 4 3

51. In addition to the expenditure of amounts derived from the general revenue, as shown in the last two tables, all the Colonies spend large amounts on borrowed money, chiefly on railways and waterworks, but also, in some instances, on the construction of electric telegraphs, harbour works and lighthouses, defence works, roads and bridges, school buildings and other public works, and on immigration. The following table shows the total loan expenditure of the various Colonies during 1884, also the amounts per head:—

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Loan expenditure in Australasian colonies, 1884.

Expenditure from Loans in Australasian Colonies, 1884.

Name of Colony.	Expenditure from Loans during 1884.	
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.
	£	£ s. d.
Victoria - - - - -	1,600,223	1 14 5
New South Wales - - - - -	3,673,936	4 2 1
Queensland - - - - -	1,509,447	5 1 1
South Australia - - - - -	1,141,071	3 13 0
Western Australia - - - - -	168,452	5 1 1
Total - - - - -	8,088,139	3 5 7
Tasmania - - - - -	384,037	2 19 10
New Zealand - - - - -	1,565,748	2 16 8
Grand Total - - - - -	10,037,924	3 3 9

52. It will be observed that the aggregate loan expenditure of the Australasian Colonies in 1884 was no less than 10 millions sterling, over 3½ millions of which was spent by New South Wales, the amount being more than twice as large as that spent in Victoria. It will also be noticed that the loan expenditure per head of population was lower in Victoria than in any other Colony, and very much lower than in Western Australia, Queensland, or New South Wales.

Loan expenditure of different Colonies compared.

53. Of the loan expenditure of the Australasian Colonies during 1884 nearly three fourths, or about 2l. 5s. per head of population, was spent in the construction of railways; about one twelfth, or over 5s. per head, in waterworks; nearly 174,000l., or 1s. 1d. per head, on the introduction of immigrants and the balance for other services. The following are the amounts, and the amounts per

Heads of loan expenditure in Australia and Australasia.

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head, expended under each of these heads in Australia and Australasia respectively during 1884 :—

Heads of Loan Expenditure in Australia and Australasia, 1884.

Heads of Loan Expenditure.	Continent of Australia.		Australia, with Tasmania and New Zealand.	
	Amount.	Amount per Head.	Amount.	Amount per Head.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Railways - - -	6,181,387	2 9 9	7,106,802	2 5 2
Water supply - - -	803,701	0 6 6	812,879	0 5 2
Immigration - - -	61,695	0 0 6	173,606	0 1 1
Other services - - -	1,091,856	0 8 10	1,945,187	0 12 4
Total - - -	8,088,139	8 5 7	10,037,924	3 8 9

Public Debt.

54. The public debt of Victoria amounted on the 1st October 1885* to 28,576,787*l.* consisting of moneys :—

	£
Borrowed in Victoria - - -	2,243,407
„ Great Britain - - -	26,333,380
Total - - -	<u>28,576,787</u>

**Growth of the
public debt.**

55. The gross total of the public debt increased from 5,000,000*l.* in 1860 to nearly 12,000,000*l.* in 1870, and again to over 22,000,000*l.* in 1880–81 the amount at the end of each decennial period being about double that at the commencement. During the four years subsequent to 1880–81, an amount of 5,983,700*l.* was added to the debt. The whole increase in 23 years was in a much greater ratio than the increase of population, for the indebtedness per head gradually rose from 9*l.* 10*s.* in 1860 to 29*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* in 1884–85. A considerable increase also took place as compared with the total revenue, for whilst in 1860, or three years after the Colony commenced to borrow, the debt was equivalent to only 1½

* On the 30th of June 1886 the public debt amounted to 30,127,382*l.*

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years' revenue, in 1870 it was equivalent to $3\frac{3}{4}$ years, and in 1884-85 to over $4\frac{1}{2}$ years revenue. The amount of debt outstanding, together with the average per head and the multiple of revenue at the end of 1860 and the two following decennial periods and of the years 1883-84 and 1884-5, are shown in the following table:—

Growth of the Public Debt, 1860 to 1884-5.

At end of the Financial Year.					Amount outstanding.	Average per Head.	Multiple of Revenue.
					£	£ s. d.	
1860	-	-	-	-	5,118,100	9 10 4	1·66
1870	-	-	-	-	11,924,800	16 8 5	3·66
1880-81	-	-	-	-	22,593,102	26 1 2	4·36
1883-84	-	-	-	-	28,325,112	29 19 0	4·90
1884-85	-	-	-	-	28,576,787	29 7 2	4·54

Note.—On the 30th June 1886, the public debt was 30,127,382*l.* At the same date the estimated population was 1,009,753. The amount of indebtedness per head was thus 29*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* and the multiple of the revenue was 4·69.

56. The annual interest payable on the public debt as it existed at the end of the financial year 1884-5 was equivalent to an average rate of about 4*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* per cent., the rates on the amounts borrowed for the different works varying from 4 to 6 per cent. No money has been borrowed at 6 per cent. since 1866; and the 5, $4\frac{1}{2}$, and 4 per cent. loans floated since, together with the substitution of 4 per cent. debentures for the 6 per cents. which had become due, have brought down the rate of interest upon the amount borrowed for railway construction, the average of which was, at the end of 1884-85, only 4*l.* 11*s.* per cent.

Interest on
loans for
different works.

57. The total sum payable annually as interest on the public debt is 1,283,622*l.*, but as interest on debentures held by the Government is not paid, and as a portion of the debt did not bear interest during the whole of the year, the amount actually paid in 1884-85 was only 1,256,315*l.*, viz., 1,150,684*l.* in London and 105,631*l.* in Melbourne.

Interest pay-
able and paid.

58. At the end of 1884 the aggregate debt of the Colonies on the continent of Australia was over 90 millions, being nearly 15 millions more than in 1883; and the aggregate debt of Australia, with the addition of Tasmania and New Zealand, exceeded 126 millions sterling, being over 17 millions more than in 1883. The following are the exact figures, also the proportion of indebtedness per head of the population and the proportion the aggregate debt

Public debt of
Australia and
Australasia.

VICTORIA. bore to the aggregate revenue of the Colonies within the same limits.

Public Debt of Australia and Australasia, 1884.

	Public Debt.		
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.	Multiple of Revenue.
Continent of Australia - -	£ 90,287,276	£ s. d. 35 11 5	5.00
Do., with Tasmania and New Zealand - - -	126,350,558	39 1 7	5.67

Increase of debt in Australasia in 11 years.

59. During the 11 years ended with 1884 the public debt of Australasia, taken as a whole, increased nearly threefold and the proportion per head of population was nearly doubled. The debt also increased in a much greater ratio than the public revenue for whereas in 1873 it was equal to the income of the Colonies for only about $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, in 1884 it was equal to their income for over $5\frac{1}{2}$ years. This will be observed by the following figures:—

Increase of Public Debt of Australasia, 1873 to 1884.

Year.	Public Debt of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand.		
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.	Multiple of Revenue.
1873 - - - -	£ 42,672,423	£ s. d. 20 2 3	3.46
1884 - - - -	126,350,558	39 1 7	5.67
Increase - -	83,678,135	18 19 4	2.21

Objects of Australasian and other debts.

60. In comparing the indebtedness of the Australasian Colonies with that of other countries it should be borne in mind that whereas the latter was mainly issued for war purposes, the former has been, as a rule, contracted for the construction of railways, water supply, and other works of a reproductive character.

Marriages, 1885.

61. The marriages celebrated in Victoria during 1885 numbered 7,395, as against 7,218 for the previous year. The excessive favour of 1885 was thus 177.

62. The ages of both bridegroom and bride were specified in the case of all but 61 of the 7,395 marriages which took place in 1885. In 50 of the defective entries the age of neither party was given; in five cases the age of the husband was stated, but not that of the wife; and in six instances the age of the wife was given, but not that of the husband. The following table shows the ages of the husbands and of the wives in combination :—

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Ages of bridegrooms and brides in combination.

Ages of Bridegrooms and Brides in Combination, 1885.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.																		Total Bridegrooms.	
	14 to 15.	15 to 16.	16 to 17.	17 to 18.	18 to 19.	19 to 20.	20 to 21.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 to 75.		Unspecified.
17 to 18 years	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
18 to 19	-	-	2	2	3	3	3	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
19 to 20	-	-	3	7	12	9	8	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
20 to 21	-	-	1	9	20	19	16	46	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	117
21 to 25	2	2	30	90	168	233	233	1,447	250	27	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,480
25 to 30	-	3	14	27	97	166	175	1,323	724	75	21	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2,630
30 to 35	-	1	2	7	16	33	38	306	315	94	21	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	848
35 to 40	-	-	1	3	9	5	20	127	133	76	46	13	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	437
40 to 45	-	-	-	-	2	5	6	43	47	46	47	26	7	3	1	-	-	-	-	234
45 to 50	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	22	40	34	27	30	25	2	2	1	-	-	-	191
50 to 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	18	23	26	25	25	17	2	1	-	-	1	156
55 to 60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	14	6	7	13	18	19	9	7	-	-	-	104
60 to 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	6	6	9	9	6	1	-	-	-	48
65 to 70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	-	3	6	6	1	-	-	-	25
70 to 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	2	2	3	1	-	-	-	10
75 to 80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
80 to 85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Unspecified	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	56
Total Brides	2	6	47	144	321	466	518	3,348	1,559	390	209	126	92	60	51	18	2	1	55	7,395

NOTE.—This table may be read thus :—Two men between 45 and 50 married girls between 18 and 19; two women between 40 and 45 married men between 21 and 25, &c.

63. The births registered in Victoria during 1885 numbered 29,975 as against 28,850 in 1884. The increase in the year under review, as compared with the previous one, was thus 1,125. Births, 1885.

64. The births of males during 1885 numbered 15,455, those of females 14,520. These numbers furnish a proportion of 106·44 boys to 100 girls, as against a proportion of 105·99 in 1884. In the 10 years 1871–80, 137,275 births of males and 131,435 births of females were registered, giving a proportion of 104·45 boys to 100 girls. Births of males and females.

65. In 1885 237 twin births and one triple birth were registered as against 239 twin births and four triple births in 1884. In the 10 years ended with 1880 2,426 cases of twins and 21 cases of triplets were recorded, the total number of births in the same period having been 268,710. There were thus 266,242 confinements in Victoria during the 10 years, and it follows that one mother in every 111 gave birth to twins, and one mother in every 12,796 was delivered of three children at a birth. Twins and triplets.

66. The illegitimate children born in 1885 numbered 1,308, or one in every 23 births registered. Those in 1884 were also set down as one in 23, those in 1883 and 1882 as one in 21, in 1881 Illegitimate births.

VICTORIA. — as one in 20, in 1880 and 1879 as one in 21, in 1878 as one in 24, in 1877 as one in 26, in 1876 as one in 27, and in 1875 as one in 34. In the 10 years 1871–80 out of 268,710 infants born 9,868 were traced as having been born out of wedlock, which numbers furnish a proportion of one illegitimate child to every 27 births.

Deaths, 1885. 67. The deaths registered in 1885 numbered 14,364 as against 13,505 in 1884. The increase in the year under notice was thus 859.

Excess of births over deaths. 68. The births in 1885 exceeded the deaths by 15,611, or 108 per cent., as against 114 per cent. in 1884. In the 20 years ended with 1885 the proportion averaged 121 per cent.

Deaths of males and females. 69. In Victoria deaths of males in 1885 numbered 8,300, and deaths of females, 6,064. These numbers furnish a proportion of 73 females to every 100 males, as against a proportion of 76 in 1884, and an average also of 75 in the 10 years 1871–80. Females in the total population were in the proportion of 88 to every 100 males during the last two years, and of about 87 during the decennium; therefore more males and fewer females died than their relative numbers in the population might have given reason to expect.

Infantile mortality, 1885. 70. The death rate of infants of 1885 was much higher than in the two previous years, and was also above the average, but it was not nearly so high as in 1882. The total number who died under one year of age in 1885 was 3,771, and as the births numbered 29,975, it follows that 1 infant died to every 8 births, or 12·57 infants to every 100 births. In the 19 years 1866 to 1884, the proportion of infants dying before completing their first year was 12·32 to every 100 births.

Causes of death in order of fatality. 71. The following table shows the same causes of death, arranged in the order of their fatality, during 1885, with the numbers who died from each cause in that year, and during the 10 years ended with 1880, also the order of fatality of the different causes during that period :—

*Causes of Deaths in order of Fatality.
(10 Years 1871 to 1881, and Year 1885.)*

Order of Fatality.		Causes of Death in Order of Fatality, 1885.	Number of Deaths.	
10 years, 1871–80.	Year 1885.		10 years, 1871–80.	Year 1885.
1	1	Phthisis - - - - -	10,155	1,384
6	2	Pneumonia - - - - -	5,077	966
4	3	Atrophy and debility - - - - -	6,987	955
5	4	Diseases of the organs of circulation not classified - - - - -	5,642	880
2	5	Diarrhoea - - - - -	7,667	827
3	6	Accidents - - - - -	7,447	724
7	7	Bronchitis - - - - -	4,588	651

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Order of Fatality.		Causes of Death in Order of Fatality, 1885.	Number of Deaths.	
10 Years, 1871-80.	Year 1885.		10 Years, 1871-80.	Year 1885.
16	8	Old age - - - - -	2,727	598
12	9	Cancer - - - - -	2,957	445
9	10	Typhoid fever - - - - -	3,973	424
17	11	Premature birth - - - - -	2,715	365
14	12	Diseases of the nervous system not classed -	2,805	347
15	13	Apoplexy - - - - -	2,750	333
10	14	Convulsions - - - - -	3,390	316
19	15	Diseases of the liver not classed - - - - -	2,269	275
18	16	Cephalitis - - - - -	2,388	266
20	17	Enteritis - - - - -	2,134	258
29	18	Gastritis - - - - -	1,279	250
26	19	Paralysis - - - - -	1,547	210
24	20	Congestion of lungs, pulmonary apoplexy -	1,812	205
37	21	Nephria - - - - -	749	181
23	22	Croup - - - - -	1,897	180
22	23 {	Whooping-cough - - - - -	1,974	168
25		Childbirth and metria - - - - -	1,728	168
28	24	Hydrocephalus - - - - -	1,394	161
11	25	Diphtheria - - - - -	3,040	152
30	26 {	Want of breast-milk - - - - -	1,165	115
13		Dysentery - - - - -	2,846	115
34	27	Pleurisy - - - - -	811	113
27	28	Teething - - - - -	1,469	111
88	29	Tabes mesenterica - - - - -	723	109
40	30	Alcoholism - - - - -	646	99
31	31	Suicide - - - - -	951	89
46	32	Epilepsy - - - - -	588	79
36	33	Peritonitis - - - - -	771	78
56	34	Influenza, coryza catarrh - - - - -	276	74
21	35	Measles - - - - -	2,080	69
53	36 {	Laryngitis - - - - -	359	67
39		Diseases of the stomach not classed - - -	622	67
41	37 {	Diseases of the urinary organs not classed -	628	65
50		Asthma - - - - -	392	65
45	38	Malformations - - - - -	590	62
47	39	Jaundice, gallstone - - - - -	473	61
33	40	Rheumatism - - - - -	817	60
49	41	Ileus - - - - -	424	59
35	42	Aneurism - - - - -	785	58
44	43	Diseases of the respiratory system not classed	598	56
58	44	Tumour - - - - -	260	55
32	45	Hepatitis - - - - -	881	54
45	46	Cholera - - - - -	523	52
43	47	Dropsy - - - - -	613	48
51	48	Hydatids - - - - -	379	47
52	49	Pericarditis - - - - -	377	46
59	50	Nephritis - - - - -	218	45
52	51 {	Venereal diseases - - - - -	377	41
48		Scrofula - - - - -	451	41
42	52 {	Erysipelas - - - - -	619	40
60		Cystitis - - - - -	303	40
54	53	Tubercular diseases not classed - - - - -	329	37
61	54	Hernia - - - - -	191	36
70	55	Diabetes - - - - -	146	33
57	56	Miasmatic diseases not classed - - - - -	264	32
63	57	Murder, manslaughter - - - - -	190	30

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Order of Fatality.		Causes of Death in Order of Fatality, 1885.	Number of Deaths.	
10 years, 1871-80.	Year 1885.		10 years, 1871-80.	Year 1885.
67	58	Ulceration of intestines - - -	160	24
68	59	Skin diseases not classed - - -	185	23
60	60	Diseases of locomotive system not classed - - -	203	21
55	61	Thrush - - - - -	327	19
75	62	Ulcer - - - - -	86	17
72	63	Mortification - - - - -	131	16
8		Scarlatina - - - - -	4,101	14
66	64	Diseases of the organs of generation not classed - - -	168	14
71		Gout - - - - -	183	14
64	65	Ascites - - - - -	184	13
68		Privation - - - - -	157	13
74	66	Intussusception - - - - -	93	12
44	67	Ovarian dropsy - - - - -	44	10
84		Ischuria - - - - -	29	10
77	68	Paramenia - - - - -	52	8
91		Dietic diseases not classed - - -	11	8
69	69	Quinsy - - - - -	153	7
76		Arthritis - - - - -	59	7
73	70	Purpura and scurvy - - - - -	100	6
85		Ostitis, periostitis - - - - -	28	6
65		Remittent fever - - - - -	169	5
78	71	Insanity - - - - -	49	5
79		Stone, gravel - - - - -	48	5
80		Stricture of the intestines - - -	44	5
80	72	Spleen disease - - - - -	44	4
82		Carbuncle, boil - - - - -	37	4
86		Chorea - - - - -	20	3
87	73	Execution - - - - -	19	3
92		Developmental diseases of children not classed - - -	10	3
80	74	Ague - - - - -	44	2
88		Fistula - - - - -	17	2
81		Diathetic diseases not classed - - -	38	1
90	75	Chicken-pox - - - - -	18	1
93		Polypus - - - - -	9	1
94		Pancreas disease - - - - -	3	1
83	—	Noma - - - - -	34	—
86	—	Phlegmon, whitlow - - - - -	20	—
89	—	Worms - - - - -	15	—
90	—	Parasitic diseases not classed - - -	18	—
95	—	Small-pox - - - - -	2	—
96	—	Glanders - - - - -	1	—
Deaths from specified causes - - -			122,244	14,339
Deaths from unspecified causes - - -			326	25
Deaths from all causes - - -			122,570	14,364

Imports, ex-
ports, and
trade, 1885.

72. In 1885 the total declared value of the imports was 18,044,604*l.*, and that of the exports 15,551,758*l.*; the excess of imports over exports was thus 2,492,846*l.*, and the whole value of external trade was 33,596,362*l.*

73. The value of imports was less in 1885 than in 1884 by **VICTORIA.** 1,157,029*l.*, or by about 6 per cent. ; and the value of exports was also less than in that year by 498,707*l.*, or about 3 per cent. The Imports and exports, 1884 and 1885 compared. value of the total trade was thus less than in the previous year by about 1,656,000*l.*

74. The imports in 1885, as indicated by their values, were Imports and exports, 1884 and previous years. higher than in any other year of the Colony's history except 1884 and 1882 ; the exports, however, according to the same standard, were exceeded in the five previous years and in 1868.

75. In the year under review, the value per head of imports Imports and exports per head. (18*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*) was lower by 1*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, and the value per head of exports (15*l.* 19*s.*) was lower by 1*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, than in 1884.

76. The value of the imports into Victoria of articles entered as being the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, of other British dominions, and of foreign states, and the value of the Imports and exports, the produce of various countries. exports from Victoria of articles entered as the produce or manufacture of the same countries and of the Colony itself, also the per-centage of such values to the total values of imports and exports in 1885, will be found in the following table :—

Imports and Exports the Produce of different Countries, 1885.

Articles the Produce or Manufacture of—	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
Victoria - - -	£ —	—	£ 12,452,245	80·07
The United Kingdom -	8,687,567	47·87	1,253,238	8·06
Other British possessions -	6,880,987	35·86	1,087,269	6·99
Foreign States - -	3,026,050	16·77	759,006	4·88
Total - - -	18,044,604	100·00	15,551,758	100·00

77. It will be observed that 80 per cent. of the exports of 1885 Exports of Victorian produce. were set down as the produce or manufacture of Victoria. This is somewhat lower than the proportion in 1884 or 1883, but higher than that which prevailed during the previous 16 years, as will be seen by the following table, which gives the total value and value per head of articles of Victorian produce exported, and

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their proportion to the total exports, in each of the last 19 years :—

Exports of Victorian Produce 1867 to 1885.

Year.	Exports of Articles produced or manufactured in Victoria.		
	Total Value.	Value per Head of the Population.	Per-centage of Total Exports.
	£	£ s. d.	
1867 - - -	9,972,383	15 9 7	78·37
1868 - - -	11,697,893	17 12 10	75·02
1869 - - -	9,589,816	13 17 8	70·85
1870 - - -	9,103,323	12 15 3	73·00
1871 - - -	11,151,622	15 2 7	76·60
1872 - - -	10,758,658	14 5 8	77·56
1873 - - -	11,376,707	15 10 4	77·61
1874 - - -	11,352,515	14 12 0	78·52
1875 - - -	10,571,806	13 8 6	71·59
1876 - - -	10,155,916	12 15 0	71·54
1877 - - -	11,269,086	13 18 9	74·35
1878 - - -	10,676,499	12 19 11	71·53
1879 - - -	8,069,857	9 18 6	64·80
1880 - - -	11,320,467	13 3 11	70·33
1881 - - -	12,480,567	14 7 3	76·79
1882 - - -	12,570,788	14 2 4	77·63
1883 - - -	13,292,394	14 9 10	81·06
1884 - - -	13,155,484	13 18 2	81·96
1885 - - -	12,452,245	12 15 5	80·06

Increase of
exports of
Victorian pro-
ducts.

78. It should be pointed out that the returns of articles set down as produced or manufactured in Victoria are not always reliable, there being no other evidence as to the origin of such articles than the statements of the shippers, which, it is known are sometimes made very loosely. According to the table the total value of exports of local productions was considerably less than in either 1884 or 1883, and slightly less than in 1882 or in 1881, but was above that in any previous year ; but the value per head of such productions was lower than in any of the previous 18 years except 1870, 1876, and 1879.

Imports of
principal
articles.

79. The values of 62 of the principal articles imported in 1885 are given in the following table :—

Imports, 1885.

	£
Books - - -	242,517
Stationery - - -	96,343
Musical instruments - - -	128,933
Watches, clocks, and watchmakers' materials	81,767
Cutlery - - -	26,326
Machinery - - -	158,380
Sewing machines - - -	71,680

	£
Tools and utensils - - -	38,261
Building materials - - -	125,361
Furniture and upholstery - - -	91,417
Drugs and chemicals - - -	118,542
Matches and vestas - - -	24,743
Opium - - - - -	39,581
Paints and colours - - -	82,486
Carpeting and druggeting - - -	88,967
Woollens and woollen piece goods - - -	854,008
Silks - - - - -	266,338
Cottons - - - - -	1,019,410
Linen, piece goods - - -	38,583
Haberdashery - - - - -	381,826
Apparel and slops - - -	359,514
Boots and shoes - - - - -	109,998
Gloves - - - - -	108,436
Hats, caps, and bonnets - - -	108,909
Hosiery - - - - -	132,506
Bags and sacks (including woolpacks) - - -	144,240
Butter and cheese - - - - -	7,924
Fish - - - - -	136,389
Meats, fresh, preserved, and salted - - -	15,534
Fruit (including currants and raisins) - - -	208,862
Flour and biscuit - - - - -	11,963
Grain, wheat - - - - -	2,929
„ oats - - - - -	96,714
„ other (including malt and rice) - - -	123,222
Sugar and molasses - - - - -	1,204,021
Beer, cider, and perry - - - - -	218,993
Coffee - - - - -	90,267
Hops - - - - -	18,667
Spirits - - - - -	370,292
Tea - - - - -	749,063
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - - -	251,846
Wine - - - - -	112,959
Candles - - - - -	44,510
Hides, skins, and pelts - - -	181,455
Leather, leather ware, and leathern cloth - - -	171,143
Wool* - - - - -	2,201,968
Paper (including paper bags) - - -	255,137
Timber - - - - -	759,523
Oil of all kinds - - - - -	253,409
Coal - - - - -	450,974
Earthenware, brownware, and chinaware - - -	128,116
Glass and glass ware - - - - -	155,650
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - -	355,643
Specie, gold - - - - -	3,313
„ other - - - - -	46,422

* Including the value of wool imported into Victoria across the Murray.

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	£
Jewellery - - - -	56,387
Iron and steel (exclusive of railway rails, telegraph wire, &c.) - - - -	756,801
Nails and screws - - - -	57,510
Live stock - - - -	882,143
Fancy goods - - - -	98,598
Hardware and ironmongery - - - -	202,567
Oilmen's stores - - - -	18,842
Other articles - - - -	2,405,776
Total imports - - - -	18,044,604

Exports of
principal
articles.

80. The exports of 41 of the principal articles are in like manner given for the same year.

Exports, 1885.

	£
Books - - - -	78,468
Stationery - - - -	43,839
Machinery - - - -	116,836
Woollens and woollen piece goods - - - -	112,665
Apparel and slops - - - -	318,760
Boots and shoes - - - -	46,745
Butter and cheese - - - -	103,665
Meats, fresh and preserved - - - -	100,614
„ salted (including hams and bacon) - - - -	30,747
Flour and biscuit - - - -	363,895
Grain, wheat - - - -	408,537
„ oats - - - -	10,240
„ other (including malt and rice) - - - -	44,153
Potatoes - - - -	103,644
Sugar and molasses - - - -	173,774
Coffee - - - -	19,283
Spirits - - - -	103,594
Tea - - - -	370,812
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - - - -	135,634
Wine - - - -	47,924
Bones and bone dust - - - -	15,669
Candles - - - -	21,906
Horns and hoofs - - - -	678
Hides - - - -	10,284
Skins and pelts - - - -	92,149
Leather, leather ware, and leathern cloth - - - -	372,916
Soap - - - -	18,834
Tallow - - - -	155,918
Wool* - - - -	5,028,011
Bark - - - -	21,563
Hay, straw, and chaff - - - -	84,825

* Including wool from across the Murray, which is also included in the returns of imports, ante.

	£
Timber - - - -	27,271
Oil of all kinds - - - -	43,339
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - - -	353,362
Specie, gold - - - -	3,956,173
" silver - - - -	3,121
Antimony, ore, regulus, &c. - - - -	492
Copper ore, regulus, &c. - - - -	1,299
Tin, tin ore, and black sand - - - -	6,912
Live stock - - - -	900,801
Hardware and ironmongery - - - -	38,323
Other articles - - - -	1,664,083
Total exports - - - -	15,551,758

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81. In 30 out of the 49 years ended with 1885 the value of imports to Victoria exceeded that of exports therefrom, but in the other 19 years the value of exports was the greater. The following is a statement of the amounts by which the imports exceeded the exports in those years in which the excess was in favour of the former, and the amounts by which the exports exceeded the imports in those years in which the excess was in the opposite direction; also the net excess of imports during the whole period:—

Excess of
imports over
exports, &c.
1837 to 1885.

Imports in excess of Exports, and the contrary, 1837 to 1885.

Year.	Imports in excess of Exports.	Exports in excess of Imports.
	£	£
1837 - - - -	108,201	—
1838 - - - -	45,239	—
1839 - - - -	127,038	—
1840 - - - -	306,507	—
1841 - - - -	164,094	—
1842 - - - -	78,644	—
1843 - - - -	—	66,446
1844 - - - -	—	105,785
1845 - - - -	—	215,304
1846 - - - -	—	109,640
1847 - - - -	—	230,815
1848 - - - -	—	301,683
1849 - - - -	—	275,495
1850 - - - -	—	296,871
1851 - - - -	—	366,472
1852 - - - -	—	3,381,807
1853 - - - -	4,781,093	—
1854 - - - -	5,883,847	—
1855 - - - -	—	1,485,399
1856 - - - -	—	527,491
1857 - - - -	2,176,697	—
1858 - - - -	1,119,040	—
1859 - - - -	1,755,032	—
1860 - - - -	2,131,026	—
1861 - - - -	—	296,154
1862 - - - -	448,365	—
1863 - - - -	552,431	—

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Year.					Imports in excess of Exports.	Exports in excess of Imports.
					£	£
1864	-	-	-	-	1,076,431	—
1865	-	-	-	-	106,789	—
1866	-	-	-	-	1,882,165	—
1867	-	-	-	-	—	1,050,347
1868	-	-	-	-	—	2,273,328
1869	-	-	-	-	444,636	—
1870	-	-	-	-	—	14,256
1871	-	-	-	-	—	2,215,825
1872	-	-	-	-	—	179,878
1873	-	-	-	-	1,231,402	—
1874	-	-	-	-	1,512,876	—
1875	-	-	-	-	1,918,900	—
1876	-	-	-	-	1,508,867	—
1877	-	-	-	-	1,204,617	—
1878	-	-	-	-	1,236,173	—
1879	-	-	-	-	2,581,368	—
1880	-	-	-	-	—	1,397,665
1881	-	-	-	-	466,418	—
1882	-	-	-	-	2,554,502	—
1883	-	-	-	-	1,344,983	—
1884	-	-	-	-	3,151,168	—
1885	-	-	-	-	2,492,346	—
Total - - - -					44,386,388	14,790,656
Deduct excess of exports -					14,790,656	—
Net excess of imports -					29,595,732	—

Balance of
trade in forty-
nine years.

82. It will be observed that in the 49 years of which mention is made in the table the imports exceeded the exports by nearly 29,600,000*l.*, or an average of over 600,000*l.* per annum, which excess it should be mentioned would be added to if the value of the British and foreign built ships placed on the register of Victoria were included with the imports.

Steam and
sailing vessels.

83. The steamers and sailing vessels which entered and left Victorian ports in 1885, together with their tonnage and crews, were as follows:—

Steamers and Sailing Vessels Entered and Cleared, 1885.

Description of Vessels.					Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
INWARDS.							
Steamers	-	-	-	-	1,533	1,264,487	58,551
Sailing vessels	-	-	-	-	621	366,779	8,073
Total	-	-	-	-	2,154	1,631,266	66,624
OUTWARDS.							
Steamers	-	-	-	-	1,526	1,280,079	58,926
Sailing vessels	-	-	-	-	593	348,813	7,275
Total	-	-	-	-	2,119	1,628,892	66,201

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84. By means of the figures in the foregoing table it is ascertained that whilst steamers had one man to every 22 tons sailing vessels had but one man to every 47 tons.

Crews in
steam and
sailing vessels.
Postal returns.

85. The following figures show the number of post offices throughout the Colony, and the number of letters, packets, and newspapers which passed through them in the last two years. A satisfactory increase is to be observed in all the items:—

Postal Returns, 1884 and 1885.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of			
		Letters.*	Newspapers.	Packets.	Total.
1884 - - -	1,342	33,403,884	15,143,067	5,767,781	54,314,732
1885 - - -	1,384	36,061,880	16,277,108	6,489,618	58,828,606
Increase -	42	2,657,996	1,134,041	721,837	4,513,874

* Including post cards. These were first issued on the 1st April 1876. The number issued in 1885 was 2,528,474, as against 2,089,185 in 1883.

86. The letters despatched and received were, to each head of the population, in the proportion of 35·3 in 1884, and of 37·0 in 1885.

Proportion of
letters per head.

87. The postal returns of the various Australasian Colonies during the year 1884 are given in the following table:—

Postal returns
of Australasian
colonies.

Postal Returns of Australasian Colonies, 1884.

Colony.	Number of Post Offices.	Letters Despatched and Received.		Newspapers Despatched and Received.	
		Total Number.	Number per Head.	Total Number.	Number per Head.
Victoria - - -	1,342	33,403,884	35·31	15,143,067	16·01
New South Wales - - -	1,065	42,337,000	47·17	25,063,500	27·99
Queensland - - -	569	8,929,625	29·89	7,502,759	25·13
South Australia - - -	555	12,051,482	39·05	6,890,810	23·33
Western Australia - - -	78	1,241,423	38·40	946,556	29·37
Total - - -	3,629	97,863,617	39·44	55,546,692	23·33
Tasmania - - -	234	3,328,087	29·81	3,331,198	25·94
New Zealand - - -	967	33,411,401	65·89	14,093,742	25·50
Grand total - - -	4,830	138,103,105	43·67	73,974,633	23·08

88. Although the letters and newspapers despatched and received in New South Wales exceed those in Victoria by a fourth, the post offices in the latter exceed those in the former by 257

Post offices per
square mile in
Australasian
Colonies.

VICTORIA.

Indeed, Victoria, so far as the establishment of post offices is concerned, appears to afford much greater facilities to correspondents than any other Colony in the group. This is made plain by the following figures :—

Victoria	has a post office to every	65 square miles.
New Zealand	" "	108 "
Tasmania	" "	113 "
New South Wales	" "	285 "
Queensland	" "	1,174 "
South Australia	" "	1,628 "
Western Australia	" "	12,512 "

Newspapers
and packets
per head.

89. In making the returns of newspapers despatched and received, it is probable that some, if not all the neighbouring Colonies may have included packets, and this may to a certain extent account for the extremely low position Victoria occupies in regard to the number per head. Should packets be combined with newspapers in the Victorian returns the total number in 1884 would be 20,910,848, or 22·24 per head, which proportion is not very much lower than that obtaining in some of the other Colonies.

Number of
newspapers
posted in
Victoria.

90. It may be remarked that in consequence of the facilities existing in Victoria for communication with the interior by means of railways, newspapers are to a large extent transmitted by rail in parcels, in preference to being posted. It must also be remembered that in this Colony there is a postage fee on newspapers, viz., a halfpenny to places within, and a penny (generally) to places beyond, the Australasian Colonies ; whereas in the other colonies of the group, except South Australia and New Zealand, newspapers subject to certain exceptions and restrictions, are carried free by post. The fact of a fee being charged, no doubt acts as a check on the posting of newspapers, and is probably the chief reason why the number here compares unfavourably with the number in those Colonies in which they are carried free.

Electric tele-
graphs.

91. During 1885 the Victorian telegraph lines were extended by 234 miles, and the length of wire was added to by 767 miles ; a fair increase also occurred in the number of telegrams. The number of stations, the length of lines and wire, and the amount of business done in the last two years are given in the following table :—

Electric Telegraphs, 1884 and 1885.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of		Number of Telegrams.		
		Line (poles).	Wire.	Paid.	Unpaid.*	Total.
1884 - -	401	3,715	8,850	1,120,626	60,807	1,181,433
1885 - -	411	3,949	9,617	1,534,422	90,244	1,624,666
Increase -	10	234	767	413,796	29,437	443,233

* These are Government telegrams.

92. On the 1st July 1885 a reduction was made in the rates chargeable on telegrams transmitted to places within the Colony from 1*s.* for ten words or less to 6*d.* for six words or less; and in order to provide for the increase of business consequent on such reduction some additional lines were erected, and quadruplex instruments, by which the carrying capacity of the lines is increased fourfold, were worked on the main lines. From the 1st January 1885 a reduction was also made in the rate to New South Wales from 2*s.* to 1*s.* for ten words; and from the 1st January 1886 substantial reductions were also made in the charges for telegrams to Europe. These reductions resulted in an increase of local business of 41 per cent., with a decrease of revenue of 4½ per cent.; and an increase of inter-colonial business of 39 per cent., with a decrease of revenue of 13 per cent. With reference to these decreases, the Honourable the Postmaster-General (Mr. F. T. Derham, M.P.) remarks as follows:—"As a matter of fact, the telegraph, as well as the postal business of the Colony, has always been conducted at a loss, the expenses having invariably been in excess of the receipts; and it is worthy of remark that experience has conclusively shown that every reduction in the telegraph rates has tended to increase the loss."

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Reduction in
telegraph
charges.

93. Besides the telegraphic wires, there were in operation at the end of 1885 1,154 telephone "exchange" wires, of a total length of 1,111 miles, worked by private companies; also 137 private wires, of a total length of 384 miles, for telephone and other purposes. The former yielded a revenue to the State of 4,208*l.*, and the latter of 1,594*l.* As compared with the previous year, the telephone "exchange" wires increased by 241, and the private wires by 18. In 1884 about four miles of subterranean telephone cables were laid, two miles containing 100 wires, and two miles 50 wires, but no underground cables were laid during 1885. The important question of carrying both telegraph and telephone wires underground in cities and towns, especially in Melbourne, has, however, been engaging the serious attention of the Postal Department, and a board was recently appointed to examine into and report upon several schemes for the purpose which had been submitted by the inventors. The reports furnished by the board are now under consideration, but the selection of a scheme for general adoption is a matter of great difficulty, no system of undergrounding having yet been proved undeniably successful in any part of the world.

Telephones.

94. By the following statement of the number of miles open and the number of train miles travelled, and of the passengers and goods carried during the calendar year 1883 and the financial year 1884-5, it is shown that a considerable increase took place in all the items, the train mileage and goods traffic having increased by 20 per cent., and the passengers carried by as much as 81 per cent. It must be borne in mind that in both years only a portion of the extent set down as open was so during the whole year.

Miles open and
travelled.

VICTORIA.*Railways.—Miles Open and Travelled, and Passengers and Goods Carried, 1883 and 1884–5.*

Year.	Extent Opened.	Train Mileage.	Passengers.	Goods and Live Stock.
	Miles.	Miles.	No.	Tons.
1883 - - -	1,563	5,701,513	26,485,804	1,881,760
1884–5 - - -	1,676	6,849,818	24,814,002	2,272,361
Increase - - -	114	1,148,305	8,328,698	390,601

Receipts and working expenses.

95. The following were the railway receipts and working expenses during the calendar year 1883 and the financial year 1884–5. The former was the last complete year under the old, and the latter the first complete financial year under the new, management :—

Railways.—Receipts and Working Expenses, 1883 and 1884–5.

Year.	Receipts.				Working Expenses.	Net Income.	Proportion of Working Expenses to Receipts.
	Passenger Fares.	Freight on Goods and Live Stock.	Sundries.	Total.			
1883 -	£ 796,773	£ 930,887	£ 130,681	£ 1,858,341	£ 1,273,922	£ 624,389	67·11
1884–5 -	912,161	1,100,224	159,547	2,181,933	1,277,425	904,507	58·55
Increase -	115,388	169,337	28,866	293,621	3,503	280,118	—
Decrease -	—	—	—	—	—	—	8·56

Increase in net railway income.

96. It will be observed that, although the average extent of railway lines open for traffic was only 7 per cent. greater in 1884–5 than in 1883, the net income increased by 280,000*l.*, or by over two-fifths ; it was also greater by over 150,000*l.* than in 1881, when the net income received was next largest to that in the year under review. This satisfactory result was due to the largely increased revenue under all heads, combined in the very small increase in the working expenses, which, in proportion to the receipts, showed a considerable falling off. In regard to the working expenses, however, it should be pointed out that in 1883 they were unusually heavy, owing to extensive renewals of the permanent way, the proportion of working expenses to receipts, viz, 67 per cent., being in consequence the highest yet recorded.

In 1884-5 this proportion, 58½ per cent., was higher than in any previous year, except 1883 and 1882; prior to the last named year the proportion had always been less than 55 per cent. VICTORIA.

97. The following table shows the average extent of Government railways open, and the gross earnings and expenses, and the net profits per mile open, in each of the last thirteen years:— Earnings and expenses per mile.

Earnings and Expenses of Railways per mile open, 1873-4 to 1885-6.

Year.	Average Number of Miles open.	Gross earnings per Mile.	Expenses per Mile.	Net Profits per Mile.
		£	£	£
1873-4 - - -	414	2,056	905	1,151
1874-5 - - -	541	1,701	890	811
1875-6 - - -	608	1,636	821	815
1877 - - -	787	1,448	753	695
1878 - - -	967	1,258	647	611
1879 - - -	1,091	1,120	587	533
1880 - - -	1,194	1,250	682	568
1881 - - -	1,215	1,371	752	619
1882 - - -	1,300	1,370	845	525
1883 - - -	1,432	1,326	890	436
1884 (6 months) -	1,598	701	425	276
1884-5 - - -	1,655	1,818	772	546
1885-6 - - -	1,691	1,877	775	602

98. It will be observed that, as the railways are extended, the net profits per mile, as a rule, gradually decrease; thus in 1873-4, when the extent open amounted to only 25 per cent. of that open in 1884-5, the annual net profits per mile were more than twice as great as at the latter period. In 1880 and 1881 exceptional increases occurred in this item, which was in consequence of the transactions of the late Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Company's lines, on which the net profits per mile are naturally larger than on the country lines, were included for the first time in those years. It is satisfactory to notice that a minimum of net profits per mile seems to have been reached in 1883, and considerable improvement took place in the first six months of 1884, and the 12 months of 1884-5. Decrease of net profits per mile.

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Length, cost,
and revenue of
railways in
each Colony.

99. The following is a statement of the length, capital cost, receipt, working expenses, and net revenue of the railways in each Australasian Colony during the year 1884:—

*Length, Capital Cost, Receipts, and Working Expenses of
Railways in Australasian Colonies, 1884.*

Colony.	At end of 1884.		During the Year 1884.		
	Number of Miles open.	Capital Cost.	Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Net Revenue.
Victoria - - -	1,863	£22,070,300	£2,196,149	£1,335,900	£860,249
New South Wales - - -	1,865	20,090,138	2,096,237	1,301,259	784,978
Queensland - - -	1,807	8,631,835	639,631	357,535	273,096
South Australia - - -	1,069	7,273,530	606,539	382,723	223,816
Western Australia - - -	118	381,885	20,809	18,114	2,695
Total - - -	5,712	58,487,678	5,540,365	3,395,431	2,144,934
Tasmania - - -	215	1,798,939	114,768	95,748	19,020
New Zealand - - -	1,570	11,810,194	1,045,712	690,096	355,616
Grand total - - -	7,497	72,041,811	6,700,845	4,181,305	2,519,640

Cost per mile
of railways in
each Colony.

100. The average cost of railways per mile, as deduced from the figures in the above table, ranges from 13,271*l.* in Victoria to 3,236*l.* in Western Australia. The following are the figures for each Colony:—

*Capital Cost per mile of Railways in each Colony.
(At the end of 1884.)*

	£
1. Victoria - - -	13,271
2. New South Wales - - -	12,060
3. Tasmania - - -	8,344
4. New Zealand - - -	7,522
5. Queensland - - -	7,151
6. South Australia - - -	6,868
7. Western Australia - - -	3,236

Proportion of
railway
revenue to
cost in each
Colony.

101. In 1884 the net railway revenue bore a higher proportion to the capital cost in Victoria and New South Wales than in any of the other Colonies, the proportion being in favour of the latter by a very small fraction. This will be observed from the following

figures, which also show that the railways of Western Australia did not pay 1 per cent., and those of Tasmania only just 1 per cent., whilst those of the other Colonies pay between 3 and 4 per cent. upon their capital cost :—

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Proportion of Net Revenue to Capital Cost of Railways in each Colony, 1884.

			Per cent.
1. New South Wales	-	-	3·91
2. Victoria	-	-	3·90*
3. Queensland	-	-	3·16
4. South Australia	-	-	3·08
5. New Zealand	-	-	3·01
6. Tasmania	-	-	1·06
7. Western Australia	-	-	·71

102. Taking the continent of Australia as a whole, the capital cost of railways averaged 10,231*l.* per mile, and the proportion of net revenue to cost was 3·6 per cent. Combining the Australian continent with Tasmania and New Zealand, the capital cost averaged 9,610*l.* per mile, and the proportion of net revenue to cost was 3·5 per cent. Average cost and profits of railways in Australia and Australasia.

103. The total number of farm holdings visited in 1885-6 was 38,384, of which 37,066 were in shires, 1,103 in cities, towns, or boroughs, and 215 in places outside of local jurisdiction. In the previous year the number of farms visited was 38,139, the increase being thus 245. Number of cultivators.

104. The extent of land returned as under cultivation amounted to 2,405,157 acres, as against 2,323,493 acres in 1884-5. The increase shown by the figures was, therefore, 81,664 acres. Land under tillage.

105. The average area in cultivation to each person in the Colony was about 2½ acres in the year under review, as against 2½ acres five years previously, and 1½ acre 10 years previously. The exact amounts at the three periods were as follows :— Area cultivated per head of population.

Average Area cultivated to each Person in the Colony.

				Acres.
1875-6	-	-	-	1·37
1880-81	-	-	-	2·32
1885-6	-	-	-	2·47

106. The principal crops grown in Victoria are wheat, oats, barley, hay, potatoes, and green forage. In 1885-6 a smaller area was placed under wheat than in 1884-5 or 1883-4, but a larger area than in any other year. The extent under the remainder of these crops, however, was larger in 1885-6 than in any previous Land under principal crops.

* In 1885 this proportion was 4·07 per cent.

VICTORIA. year. The following table shows the extent of land under each of these crops in the last two seasons :—

Land under Principal Crops, 1885 and 1886.

Year ended March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Green Forage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1885 - - -	1,096,854	187,710	62,278	38,763	339,925	332,859
1886 - - -	1,020,082	215,994	74,112	42,602	421,086	334,399
Increase -	—	28,284	-11,839	3,839	81,161	1,540
Decrease -	76,272	—	—	—	—	—

107. The following is a statement of the gross produce of each of the principal crops in 1883-4 and 1884-5 :—

Gross Produce of Principal Crops, 1885 and 1886.

Year ended March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1885 - - -	10,488,146	4,392,695	1,082,480	161,119	371,046
1886 - - -	9,170,538	4,692,308	1,302,854	163,202	442,118
Increase -	—	299,608	220,424	2,083	71,072
Decrease -	1,262,608	—	—	—	—

Yield of principal crops, 1872 to 1886.

108. In the past season, over the Colony, as a whole, the acreable yield of wheat, barley, and hay was below, and that of oats and potatoes above, the average ; thus, the yield per acre of wheat was lower than in any of the previous 14 years except 1878-9 ; that of barley was lower than in any, except 1884-5, 1882-3, and 1880-81 ; and that of hay was lower than in any of the years. On the other hand, the yield per acre of oats was exceeded only in the previous four years, in 1879-80 and 1875-6 ; and that of potatoes was the highest in the 15 years. This will be seen by the following

table, which shows the yield per acre of those five crops during each of those years, also the average during the whole period :—

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Average Produce of Principal Crops, 1872 to 1886.

Year ended March.	Average Produce per Acre of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1872 - - -	13·45	18·76	20·00	3·22	1·40
1873 - - -	16·51	19·55	20·86	3·45	1·32
1874 - - -	13·58	15·69	19·84	2·86	1·27
1875 - - -	14·57	18·46	21·01	3·53	1·32
1876 - - -	15·49	21·92	22·20	3·37	1·38
1877 - - -	13·15	19·91	21·18	3·81	1·22
1878 - - -	12·41	19·39	19·81	3·11	1·17
1879 - - -	8·76	17·60	18·24	2·71	1·21
1880 - - -	13·29	24·00	24·67	4·04	1·45
1881 - - -	9·95	17·62	15·57	2·81	1·20
1882 - - -	9·40	24·57	19·07	3·43	1·13
1883 - - -	9·08	26·17	17·85	3·78	1·06
1884 - - -	14·10	25·07	22·84	4·01	1·43
1885 - - -	9·52	28·40	17·38	4·16	1·09
1886 - - -	8·99	21·72	17·58	4·44	1·05
Mean - - -	12·15	20·92	19·84	3·48	1·24

109. Information as to the numbers of live stock kept was obtained at the census of 1881, and since that time the figures have been brought on by estimates furnished by the municipal authorities. The following are the census numbers, and the numbers in March 1886 as derived from the municipal estimates alluded to :—

Live Stock, 1881 and 1886.

Period.	Horses.	Cattle.			Sheep.	Pigs.
		Milch Cows.	Exclusive of Milch Cows.	Total.		
3rd April 1881 (enumerated) -	275,516	329,198	957,069	1,286,267	10,380,285	241,936
March 1886 (estimated) -	304,098	333,896	956,892	1,290,790	10,681,837	239,637
Increase - - -	28,582	4,700	—	4,523	321,552	—
Decrease - - -	—	—	177	—	—	2,099

110. According to the estimate of the Mining Department, the gold raised in Victoria in 1885 was 735,218 oz., which is less than the quantity obtained in 1884 by 43,400 oz., representing at 4l.

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per oz. a diminished value of 173,600*l*. The following are the figures for the two years:—

Quantity and Value of Gold raised in 1884 and 1885.

Year.					Gold raised in Victoria.	
					Estimated Quantity.	Value, at 4 <i>l</i> . per oz.
1884	-	-	-	-	Oss. 778,618	£ 3,114,472
1885	-	-	-	-	735,218	2,940,872
Decrease	-	-	-	-	43,400	173,600

Gold raised,
1871 to 1885.

111. From 1871 to 1879 the quantity of gold raised from year to year had been steadily diminishing, but in the next three years an improvement took place, which, however, was not sustained in the next three years, the yield in the last of these being less than in any other since 1851. The following figures give an estimate of the quantity of gold raised in 1871 and each subsequent year:—

Estimated quantity of Gold raised, 1871 to 1885.

	Oss.
1871 - - - -	1,355,477
1872 - - - -	1,282,521
1873 - - - -	1,241,205
1874 - - - -	1,155,972
1875 - - - -	1,095,787
1876 - - - -	963,760
1877 - - - -	809,653
1878 - - - -	775,272
1879 - - - -	758,947
1880 - - - -	829,121
1881 - - - -	858,850
1882 - - - -	898,536
1883 - - - -	810,047
1884 - - - -	778,618
1885 - - - -	735,218

Gold raised,
1851 to 1885.

112. Carrying on to the end of 1885 the calculations given in previous years, the following may be estimated as the total quantity and value of the gold raised in Victoria from the period of its first discovery in 1851. The figures give an average per

annum during the whole period of about 1,535,000 oz., which is more than twice the quantity raised in 1885 :—

VICTORIA.

Estimated Total Quantity and Value of Gold raised in Victoria, 1851 to 1885.

Gold raised in Victoria.	Estimated Quantity.	Value at 4l. per oz.
	Ozs.	£
Prior to 1885 - - - -	53,992,768	211,971,072
During 1885 - - - -	735,218	2,940,872
Total - - - -	53,727,986	214,911,944

113. The quantity of gold raised in all the Australasian Colonies, from the period that deposits of that metal were first discovered in 1851 to the end of 1884, is estimated to have amounted to over 78 million ounces, valued at over 306 million pounds sterling. The following table contains particulars of the quantity and value of the gold produced in each Colony during that period. Western Australia is absent from the list, since little, if any, gold has yet been discovered there :—

Gold raised in
Australasian
Colonies.

Produce of Gold in Australasian Colonies.

Colony.	Gold produced.					
	Prior to 1884.		During 1884.		Total.	
	Estimated Quantity.	Value.	Estimated Quantity.	Value.	Estimated Quantity.	Value.
Victoria - - -	Ozs. 53,314,150	£ 206,856,600	Ozs. 778,618	£ 3,114,472	Ozs. 53,992,768	£ 211,971,072
New South Wales - -	9,433,759	34,971,319	105,933	390,229	9,538,692	35,361,548
Queensland - - -	4,221,476	14,775,166	307,804	1,077,314	4,529,280	15,852,480
South Australia - -	133,181	529,771	21,445	80,898	154,626	610,664
Total of Australia -	66,001,566	259,133,856	1,313,810	4,662,908	67,315,376	263,796,764
Tasmania - - -	335,728	1,391,336	42,340	160,404	378,068	1,551,740
New Zealand - - -	10,276,547	40,275,532	246,393	968,963	10,522,940	41,244,495
Total Australasia -	76,613,841	300,700,724	1,562,543	5,812,265	78,116,384	306,513,479

NOTE.—The estimated quantity raised in 1885 was as follows :—Victoria, 735,218 oz.; South Australia, 24,296 oz.; Tasmania, 41,241 oz.; New Zealand, 237,371 oz.

114. The following table contains a statement of the average Wages. rates of wages paid in respect to engagements made in Melbourne

VICTORIA.

in 1885. It has been compiled from statements obtained from the best authorities, and is believed to be fairly representative of a state of affairs which must always be subject to some fluctuations. Throughout Victoria the recognised working day for artizans and general labourers is eight hours:—

Wages in Melbourne, 1885.

Description of Labour.					1885.
<i>Agricultural Labour.</i>					
Farm labourers	-	-	-	per week, and found	15s. to 20s.
Ploughmen	-	-	-	" "	20s. to 25s.
Reapers*	-	-	-	per acre	10s. to 15s.
Mowers*	-	-	-	per acre	4s. to 6s.
Threshers*	-	-	-	per bushel	5d. to 7d.
<i>Pastoral Labour.</i>					
Shepherds	-	-	-	per annum, with rations	36l. to 52l.
Stock-keepers	-	-	-	" and found	50l. to 75l.
Hut-keepers	-	-	-	" with rations	26l. to 40l.
Generally useful men on stations	-	-	-	per week, and found	15s. to 20s.
Sheep-washers	-	-	-	" "	15s. to 25s.
Shearers	-	-	-	per 100 sheep sheared	12s. to 15s.
<i>Artizan Labour.</i>					
Masons	-	-	-	per day, without board	10s. to 12s.
Plasterers	-	-	-	" "	"
Bricklayers	-	-	-	" "	"
Carpenters	-	-	-	" "	"
Blacksmiths	-	-	-	" "	10s. to 14s.
<i>Servants—Males and Married Couples.</i>					
Married couples, without family	-	-	-	per annum, with board and lodging	60l. to 90l.
Married couples, with family	-	-	-	" "	40l. to 50l.
Men cooks, on farms and stations	-	-	-	" "	50l. to 60l.
Grooms, coachmen, &c.	-	-	-	per week,	20s. to 30s.
Gardeners	-	-	-	" "	"
<i>Servants—Females.</i>					
Cooks	-	-	-	per annum, with board and lodging	40l. to 75l.
Laundresses	-	-	-	" "	35l. to 52l.
General servants	-	-	-	" "	25l. to 40l.
Housemaids	-	-	-	" "	25l. to 40l.
Nursemaids	-	-	-	" "	20l. to 40l.
<i>Miscellaneous Labour.</i>					
General labourers	-	-	-	per day, without board	6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.
Stonebreakers	-	-	-	per cubic yard	1s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.
Seamen	-	-	-	per month, and found	4l. 10s. to 6l.
Miners	-	-	-	per week, without board	2l. to 2l. 10s.

* Of late years the greater portion of the reaping, mowing, and threshing has been done by machinery.

Prices.

115. Prices in Melbourne were quoted as follows for 1885. In country districts the cost of groceries, tobacco, imported wines, coal, &c., is naturally much higher, and that of agricultural and

grazing produce, firewood, &c., naturally somewhat lower, than in **VICTORIA.**
Melbourne:—

Prices in Melbourne, 1885.

Articles.						1885.
<i>Agricultural Produce.</i>						
Wheat	-	-	-	-	per bushel	3s.6d. to 4s.2d.
Barley	-	-	-	-	"	2s.6d. to 4s.10d.
Oats	-	-	-	-	"	2s.4d. to 3s.5d.
Maize	-	-	-	-	"	4s. to 5s. 2d.
Bran	-	-	-	-	"	11d. to 1s. 3d.
Hay	-	-	-	-	per ton	3l. to 7l.
Flour, first quality	-	-	-	-	"	7l.10s. to 9l.10s.
Bread	-	-	-	-	per 4 lb. loaf	5d. to 6d.
<i>Grazing Produce.</i>						
Horses:—						
Draught	-	-	-	-	each	20l. to 60l.
Saddle and harness	-	-	-	-	"	8l. to 45l.
Cattle:—						
Fat	-	-	-	-	"	7l. to 16l.
Milch cows	-	-	-	-	"	5l. to 12l.
Sheep, fat	-	-	-	-	"	7s. 6d. to 19s.
Lambs, fat	-	-	-	-	"	5s.6d. to 18s.6d.
Butchers' meat:—						
Beef, retail	-	-	-	-	per lb.	4d. to 8d.
Mutton "	-	-	-	-	"	1½d. to 5d.
Veal "	-	-	-	-	"	5d. to 8d.
Pork "	-	-	-	-	"	7d. to 9d.
Lamb "	-	-	-	-	per quarter	2s. to 3s. 6d.
<i>Dairy Produce.</i>						
Butter	-	-	-	-	per lb.	10d. to 2s. 3d.
Cheese	-	-	-	-	"	5d. to 1s.
Milk	-	-	-	-	per quart	4d. to 6d.
<i>Farm Yard Produce.</i>						
Geese	-	-	-	-	per couple	7s. to 15s.
Ducks	-	-	-	-	"	5s. to 9s.
Fowls	-	-	-	-	"	4s. to 8s.
Rabbits	-	-	-	-	"	6d. to 1s.
Pigeons	-	-	-	-	"	2s.6d. to 3s.6d.
Turkeys	-	-	-	-	each	7s. to 15s.
Sucking pigs	-	-	-	-	"	10s. to 14s.
Bacon	-	-	-	-	per lb.	8d. to 1s.
Ham	-	-	-	-	"	10d. to 1s. 2d.
Eggs	-	-	-	-	per doz.	10d. to 2s. 6d.
<i>Garden Produce.</i>						
Potatoes:—						
Wholesale	-	-	-	-	per ton	3l. to 5l.
Retail	-	-	-	-	per cwt.	3s. to 5s.
Onions, dried	-	-	-	-	"	4s. to 8s.
Carrots	-	-	-	-	per doz. bunches	6d. to 9d.
Turnips	-	-	-	-	"	4d. to 1s.
Radishes	-	-	-	-	"	4d. to 6d.
Cabbages	-	-	-	-	per doz.	1s. to 6s.
Cauliflowers	-	-	-	-	"	2s. to 7s.
Lettuces	-	-	-	-	"	1s. to 2s.
Green peas	-	-	-	-	per lb.	1d. to 8d.

VICTORIA.

Articles.							1885.
<i>Miscellaneous Articles.</i>							
Tea	-	-	-	-	-	per lb.	1s.6d. to 2s.6d.
Coffee	-	-	-	-	-	"	1s.3d. to 1s.6d.
Sugar	-	-	-	-	-	"	3d. to 4d.
Rice	-	-	-	-	-	"	2½d. to 4d.
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	-	"	3s. to 6s.
Soap, colonial	-	-	-	-	-	"	3d. to 4d.
Candles:—							
Sperm	-	-	-	-	-	"	9d. to 1s.
Tallow	-	-	-	-	-	"	4d. to 6d.
Salt	-	-	-	-	-	"	1d.
Coal	-	-	-	-	-	per ton	25s. to 36s.
Firewood	-	-	-	-	-	"	9s.6d. to 12s.6d.
<i>Wines, Spirits, &c.</i>							
Ale	-	-	-	-	-	per doz.	5s. to 12s.
Porter	-	-	-	-	-	"	"
Brandy	-	-	-	-	-	per gall.	22s. 6d. to 35s.
Rum	-	-	-	-	-	"	15s. to 18s.
Whiskey	-	-	-	-	-	"	18s. to 28s.
Geneva	-	-	-	-	-	per case 15 bottles	60s. to 62s. 6d.
Port wine	-	-	-	-	-	per doz.	38s. to 72s.
Sherry	-	-	-	-	-	"	35s. to 75s.
Claret	-	-	-	-	-	"	32s. 6d. to 70s.
Champagne	-	-	-	-	-	"	70s. to 105s.
Colonial wine	-	-	-	-	-	"	12s. to 30s.

For complete information on many points which have been merely touched upon, and on others which are not even mentioned in this digest, the reader is referred to the "Victorian Year Book,* 1884-5."

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER.

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

Governor Sir G. W. DES VŒUX, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon.
EDWARD STANHOPE, M.P.

Government House, Newfoundland,

SIR,

January 19, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith in duplicate the annual Blue Book for Newfoundland for the year 1885 together with a report upon the same which has been submitted to me by the Colonial Secretary.

* This is an official publication by the Government Statist, published annually, and may be obtained from the Government printer, Melbourne, the Agent General of Victoria, 8, Victoria Chambers, Westminster, or George Robertson, 17, Warwick Square, London.

I much regret the delay in forwarding this Blue Book, which has, I am informed, been caused by the great difficulty in obtaining information from some of the more distant outports.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX.

The Right Hon.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
January 16, 1887.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1885, which has been more than usually delayed by the difficulty of obtaining necessary returns.

Trade.

The depression referred to in the Report on the Blue Book for 1884 was continued and even increased in 1885, owing to a considerably reduced production of the staples of the Colony, the effect being intensified by a decline in prices in the usual Colonial markets. The export of codfish for the year was deficient about 163,000 quintals, whilst its value is stated by the returns to have been \$1,612,000 less than in 1884. Shipments of cod oil were short nearly 1,500 tons, and lower prices made the deficiency in value \$225,000. The products of the seal fishery exhibited some decline, both in skins and oil, and lower rates made a reduction in the value of the export of \$22,000. The lobster fishery alone showed a considerable increase, the aggregate export being 824,000 lbs., an excess of 200,000 lbs. over that of 1884. The largest shipments of this article are made to England, where the Newfoundland brands command the highest prices.

It is satisfactory to note that the production of copper ore was somewhat increased and met with slightly improved markets.

Corresponding to the general decrease in exports there was a deficiency on most staples of import. Flour was short 23,000 barrels, molasses 127,000 gallons, whilst on British manufactured goods (ad valorem duty) there was a deficiency of \$899,000. The total import for 1885 was \$6,698,500 as against \$8,075,792 for 1884.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue was collected under the same tariff as that of 1884 and showed a decline proportionate to the falling off in imports, there being a deficiency of \$166,466, the whole amount being \$892,281.

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

Other sources of revenue did not exhibit any marked decline, that derived from the Post Office, indeed, being \$7,000 in excess. Total revenue of the year \$1,009,222-40.

Expenditure.

Apart from the payments on account of St. John's dock construction a small increase of expenditure is shown under most heads, amounting in the aggregate to \$86,246, the whole expenditure for the year being \$1,376, 184. The cost of the dry dock, St. John's, in 1884 and 1885 was \$553,841.

Savings Bank.

The returns show an increase of about 100 depositors and \$127,562 deposits. The total amount held by the savings bank is \$1,787,054. The accumulated profits of the institution to 31st December 1885 amount to \$98,000, which, under Act of the Legislature, will be applied to the reduction of the public debt.

Agriculture.

A larger number of land grants than usual was taken up in 1885, the number of grants issued being 185, containing 2,177 acres, besides a grant to the Railway Company, under their charter, of 4,900 acres. The thrifty cultivation of the soil tends largely to the greater comfort of the fishing population of the Colony and every facility is given with the encouragement of road making, for the acquisition of land for farmers and gardeners.

Shipbuilding.

The number of ships built in the Colony in 1885 was 69, of 2,068 tons, and the total number of registered vessels 1,977. An increasing number of the Colonial craft are being remuneratively employed in the bank fishery, and it seems probable that before many years elapse this branch of the fishery will give employment to a larger fleet of vessels.

Education.

The system of education may be said to be denominational, all appropriations being made on the basis of population.

The total expenditure by the Colony for educational purposes in 1885 was \$102,557.64, and the returns, which are not by any means complete, give the number of pupils as 27,089—14,343 d 12,776 females.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

M. FENELON,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir G. William Des Voeux, K.C.M.G.

GAMBIA.**GAMBIA.**

No. 4.

Administrator J. S. HAY to the Right Hon. EDWARD
STANHOPE, M.P.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
November 16, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch received from the Acting Administrator, giving cover to the annual Blue Book for the year 1885, and his report thereon.

2. The report is of a voluminous and exhaustive nature, supplying interesting details respecting the adjacent countries as well as furnishing particulars respecting the climate, meteorology, distribution of races, &c.

3. It is, I conceive, a valuable addition to the report furnished by Mr. Moloney in 1884, and would respectfully suggest the advantage of having it printed and thus afford facility for reference as well as give an opportunity to the general public of possessing an interesting account of the Settlement and its surroundings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. S. HAY,
Administrator-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Edward Stanhope, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK for 1885.

Government House, Bathurst,
October 23, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith (in triplicate) the Gambia Blue Book for 1885, and beg to offer the following remarks on the returns furnished by the various departments in the Settlement.

Taxes, &c.

There has been no alteration in the tariff as reported for the year 1884.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The estimated revenue amounted to 26,076*l.* 15*s.* and that actually collected to 20,257*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*; which latter sum included the following items, viz., 21*l.* 17*s.* "overpayments recovered," and 347*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* arrears for the previous year.

GAMBIA.

There were increases under the following heads, viz. :—

Head of Estimate.	Amount estimated.	Amount collected.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court - - -	889 0 0	852 15 6	13 15 6
Land revenue - - -	449 0 0	530 15 7	81 15 7
Reimbursements in aid - - -	104 0 0	208 3 2	104 3 2
Postage - - -	520 0 0	771 7 7	251 7 7
Special receipts - - -	—	20 6 6	20 6 6
Fees of office - - -	150 0 0	156 6 3	6 6 3
Total - - -	1,562 0 0	2,089 14 7	477 14 7

making a total of 477*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*

On the other hand, there were decreases to the amount of 6,296*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* under the heads enumerated in the following table :—

Head of Estimate.	Amount estimated.	Amount collected.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - -	21,100 0 0	15,670 7 10	5,429 12 2
Licenses - - -	1,056 15 0	976 0 0	80 15 0
Rents, exclusive of land - - -	631 0 0	545 18 11	85 1 1
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	500 0 0	192 9 6	307 10 6
Government steamer - - -	1 0 0	—	1 0 0
Auction duty - - -	26 0 0	14 12 8	11 7 4
Interest - - -	1,200 0 0	818 15 3	381 4 9
Total - - -	24,514 15 0	18,218 4 2	6,296 10 10

It will be observed that the revenue under the head of "Customs" shows a large falling off, viz., 5,429*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* attributable mainly to general depression of trade, and the comparative failure of the ground nut crop, upon which latter merchandize, it has been often repeated, depends the prosperity or otherwise of the Settlement,

There were only 12,488 tons exported in 1885, as against 18,277 tons in the previous year. The principal deficiencies occur under the following heads, viz. :—

GAMBIA.

Article.	Amount.
Tobacco, import duty - - - - -	£ s. d. 1,949 18 2
Cola nuts, „ - - - - -	1,015 17
Ground nuts, export duty - - - - -	2,423 17 5
Tonnage dues - - - - -	662 14 0
Total - - - - -	6,052 2 3

The following headings under customs show an increase over the estimated revenue, which, unhappily, however, make but a poor set off against the large deficiency under the other headings :—

Article.	Amount.
Wine, import duty - - - - -	£ s. d. 158 7 5
Spirits, „ - - - - -	621 18 2
Gunpowder, import duty - - - - -	132 19 9
Warehouse rent - - - - -	99 17 3
Total - - - - -	1,007 17 7

The under-mentioned table exhibits a comparison between the revenues for 1884 and 1885, under the various heads of estimates, inclusive of arrears :—

Heads of Estimates.	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - - - -	20,534 3 2	15,670 7 10	—	4,863 15 4
Licences - - - - -	910 0 0	976 0 0	66 0 0	—
Rents, exclusive of land	577 10 6	548 16 10	—	29 4 7
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court	380 8 5	349 13 0	—	—
Land revenue - - - - -	12 8 3	500 18 9	488 10 6	—
Miscellaneous receipts	687 10 5	170 12 6	—	456 17 11
Reimbursement in aid	254 6 4	207 13 2	—	46 13 2
Postal revenue - - - - -	213 18 5	420 10 2	246 11 9	—
Special receipts - - - - -	16 16 0	20 6 6	3 10 6	—
Fees of office - - - - -	60 17 11	156 6 3	96 8 4	—
Auction duty - - - - -	14 9 5	14 12 8	0 3 3	—
Interest - - - - -	1,197 15 6	818 15 3	—	379 0 3
Arrears - - - - -	180 15 2	347 8 10	167 13 8	—
Total - - - - -	24,963 19 6	20,236 1 9	1,078 2 7	5,501 0 4

It will be observed, therefore, that while there is an increase under certain minor heads of revenue, there is a marked decrease

GAMBIA.

under the head of "Customs," there having been, as a matter of fact, a falling off under every dutiable article except gunpowder, which exhibits a slight increase over that collected in the previous year. This, however, in view of the use to which this article is put, is hardly a subject for congratulation. The items which show the most sensible diminution are the following:—

Article.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Spirit, import duty - - - - -	258 9 5
Tobacco, " - - - - -	964 14 1
Cola nuts, " - - - - -	368 11 10
Guns and pistols, import duty - - - - -	418 19 6
Ground nuts, export duty - - - - -	1,917 14 5
Tonnage dues - - - - -	579 18 0
Total - - - - -	4,508 7 8

The total deficiency in the revenue of 1885, as compared with the previous year, amounted to 4,772*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* inclusive of arrears in both cases.

The estimated expenditure for the year 1885 amounted to 26,094*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, while the actual disbursements came to 26,594*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, making an excess of expenditure of 499*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* If, however, consideration is given to an item of 894*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* under the head of special services, "Oyster Creek Bridge," for which no provision was made, and 1,500*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* arrears of 1884, the normal expenditure for the year will be reduced to 24,200*l.* 5*s.*, and will show a saving of 1,894*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* over the prepared estimate.

The following table will afford a means of comparison between the expenditure of the years 1884 and 1885:—

Heads of Estimates.	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments - - - - -	12,828 17 5	13,688 3 5	859 6 0	—
Pensions, retired allowances, &c. - -	909 14 0	932 0 7	22 6 7	—
Revenue services, exclusive of establishments.	725 1 11	1,152 5 9	427 3 10	—
Administration of justice, exclusive of establishments.	301 6 10	104 10 6	—	196 16 4
Charitable allowance - - - - -	178 9 11	185 6 9	6 16 10	—
Hospital, exclusive of establishments	255 14 10	253 5 11	—	2 8 11
Police and gaols, exclusive of establishments.	708 4 2	804 19 11	96 15 9	—
Rent - - - - -	30 0 8	5 10 10	—	24 9 10
Transport - - - - -	803 17 9	676 6 6	172 8 9	—
Conveyance of mails - - - - -	700 0 0	400 0 0	—	*300 0 0
Works and buildings - - - - -	3,393 15 3	3,552 13 5	1,158 18 2	—
Roads, streets, and bridges - - - -	588 17 0	455 9 4	—	133 7 8
Miscellaneous services - - - - -	1,017 17 4	989 12 8	—	28 4 8
Government vessels, exclusive of establishments.	1,570 2 9	118 9 6	—	1,451 13 3
Aborigines - - - - -	529 13 0	418 9 10	—	111 3 2
Drawback, &c. - - - - -	674 15 7	249 16 11	—	424 18 8
Treasury and post office, exclusive of establishments.	—	227 10 6	227 10 6	—
Special services - - - - -	4,159 0 2	880 1 7	—	3,278 18 7
Arrears - - - - -	1,395 5 10	1,800 2 11	104 17 1	—
Total - - - - -	29,470 14 5	26,594 16 10	3,078 3 6	5,852 1 1

* Apparent only; there is a fixed charge of 1,900*l.* per annum for this service.

It will be observed from the foregoing table that the increases amount to 3,076*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* and the decreases to 5,952*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance in favour of the year under review of 2,875*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* This result, however, is mainly owing to the exceptional outlay during 1884 incidental to the construction of Oyster Creek Bridge, which reached the large total of 4,159*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, while the completion of the work in the following year only amounted to 880*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* There was likewise included in the expenditure for 1884 the cost of a new Government steam launch, which, while unprovided for in the estimates, formed an item of expenditure under the head of "Government vessels, exclusive of establishment." The vessel in question cost 1,403*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* The increases of expenditure in 1885, are mainly due to the recent contribution of 500*l.* per annum to the salary of the Governor in Chief; to the purchase of a new pilot cutter at a cost of 400*l.*; and the refurnishing of Government House at an outlay of 1,021*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

The balance standing to the credit of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to 19,301*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*

Military Expenditure.

No Imperial troops have been stationed at Bathurst since 1870. The defensive force of the Gambia is composed of a native armed police numbering about 110 non-commissioned officers and men, the Superintendent being an European, who in addition holds the post of Government Secretary. The annual cost of this force to the Settlement may be stated at 4,700*l.* A small detachment is stationed at M'Carthy's Island, and there are likewise stations in British Combo and at various towns along the Ceded Mile; the numbers actually available for Bathurst being thus reduced to about 73 men.

Although there are Ordinances providing for the establishment of both a militia and a volunteer force, nothing has been done of late years to add to the defensive resources of the Colony. A little activity in this direction would not be thrown away. Mohammedan influence is powerful, both in the river and on our borders in foreign Combo; and the past history of the Colony shows that no reliance can be placed on the permanence of friendly relations. The armament of the police at present is very defective, but, as this matter has been strongly represented, I trust that ere long matters may be placed on a better footing.

Under any circumstances there can be no doubt that steps should be taken as speedily as possible to bring into operation Ordinance No. 2 of 1873, which provides for the establishment of a volunteer force.

Public Works.

No public works of any importance were initiated in 1885, but the following may be enumerated as having contributed to the general needs of the Colony.

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First and foremost must be mentioned the completion of the Oyster Creek Bridge, which undoubtedly has supplied a great want of the Settlement, and deserves a brief history.

Oyster Creek is one of the numerous waterways flowing into the estuary of the Gambia, and is specially important, as separating the Island of St. Mary, on which Bathurst is built, from the mainland. On the other side of this creek British Combo commences, and a considerable traffic goes on between it and Bathurst, the natives bringing to market various minor articles of commerce, such as poultry, kous, tomatoes, oranges, and other fruits and vegetables. Formerly there was a ferry across the creek, which at high water measures about 300 yards in width. There was, however, often considerable delay in getting across, more especially as the tide at times runs up and down very strongly, and, as is usual with ferries, the boat was often on the wrong side. The Government, therefore, had long contemplated a bridge, and one was commenced under the auspices of Mr. Bauer, the then Colonial Engineer in the year 1879. For reasons however, which it is unnecessary to detail here, the bridge did not progress very rapidly, and a considerable sum of money was expended with nothing to show for it, except a straggling array of screw piles all standing at different angles and stretching about a third of the way across the creek. At length the Government determined to place the construction in the hands of an English contractor, and the work was entrusted to Messrs. Wakefield and Co., who despatched an able assistant in the person of Mr. R. Challis to undertake the work. Mr. Challis arrived at Bathurst in the month of December 1883, and under his experienced guidance the screw piles gradually assumed an upright position, and the others necessary to complete the basis for the platform were soon set up across the creek. With commendable energy Mr. Challis pushed on the work, and on the 1st May 1885 the bridge was opened with all due ceremony by Captain C. A. Moloney, C.M.G., the then administrator. Several thousand people assembled to witness the opening, and much enthusiasm prevailed at the completion of this long delayed and most useful structure. The bridge is 300 yards long and 16 feet wide, the platform being of pitch pine well tarred and of good, solid, thickness. At present it is farmed, and brings in a revenue to the Government of 7*l.* 2*s.* a week, this sum having been acquired by open tender. The total cost of the bridge amounted to 5,495*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*; but a considerable portion of this might have been saved had the plan eventually adopted been resorted to in the first instance.

The other public works consisted of more or less extensive repairs to the public buildings, amongst which may be mentioned repairs to the gaol, police barracks, military hospital, Treasury, Custom, and Court Houses, and Government house; repairs to lock gates and sea wall; and painting various structures, more especially the Oyster Creek Bridge.

The total expenditure under Public Works for the year amounted to 3,552*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

*Legislation.*GAMBIA.

The following Ordinances have been passed during the year by the Legislature of the Gambia :—

Ordinances passed in the year 1885.

No. 1.—An Ordinance to remove restrictions imposed on foreign ships or vessels navigating the River Gambia.

No. 2.—An Ordinance to amend "The Tonnage Dues Amendment Ordinance, 1883."

No. 3.—An Ordinance to further amend "The Debtor's Ordinance, 1873."

No. 4.—An Ordinance to amend the laws relating to Quarantine.

No. 5.—An Ordinance to amend an Ordinance intituled "An Ordinance to prevent the use or discharge of Guns in the town of Bathurst."

No. 6.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Settlement on the River Gambia for the year 1885.

No. 7.—An Ordinance to regulate the collection of tolls at the Oyster Creek Bridge.

No. 8.—"An Ordinance to legalize certain payments made in the year 1884 beyond the expenditure authorised by law."

No. 9.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the property of married women.

No. 10.—An Ordinance for conferring on a certain company called "Compagnie du Senegal et de la côte Occidentale d'Afrique" the capacity to hold real property in the Settlement on the River Gambia.

No. 11.—An Ordinance to amend the "Oyster Creek Bridge Toll Ordinance, 1885."

No. 12.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Settlement on the River Gambia for the year 1886.

Legislative Council.

There has been no change in the Council during the year.

Civil Establishment.

The only official changes which took place during the year were consequent upon the promotion of the Administrator, Captain C. A. Moloney, C.M.G., to be the Administrator of Lagos, which was erected into an independent Colony.

The Honourable G. T. Carter, treasurer, who holds a dormant commission, assumed the administration of the Gambia Government after the departure of Mr. Moloney from Bathurst, and, the Honourable C. G. Blackburn, Collector of Customs, acted as treasurer during the withdrawal of Mr. Carter from his duties as treasurer.

GAMBIA.*Pensions.*

The expenditure proper under this head during the year amounted to 932*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

The pension list was reduced to the extent of 50*l.* a year by the death, in July 1885, of Mrs. Harriet Hughes.

Population, Marriages, Births, and Deaths.

There has been no census since 1881, when the total population was returned as 14,150, details of which were given in the Blue Book for 1884.

The following returns indicate a comparison between the births, deaths, and marriages for 1884 and those for the present year, under the various Christian denominations:—

Births.

Christian Religious Denomination.	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
Roman Catholic - - -	188	51	—	82
Wesleyan - - - -	No record	16	—	—
Church of England - -	No record	56	—	—
Total - - - -	—	—	—	—

Marriages.

Christian Religious Denomination.	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
Wesleyan - - - -	5	7	2	—
Church of England - -	8	11	3	—
Roman Catholic - - -	3	4	1	—
Total - - - -	16	22	6	—

Deaths.

Christian Religious Denomination.	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
Wesleyan - - - -	46	35	—	11
Roman Catholic - - -	42	34	—	8
Church of England - -	4	26	22	—
Total - - - -	92	95	22	19

Savings Bank, Friendly Societies, &c.

Although the Treasury Savings Bank Ordinance was passed in December 1884, the provisions did not come into force until the 1st January 1886.

No other banking establishment exists in the Settlement, and it is hoped that natives and others will take advantage of this mode of investing their savings, and that more thrift will be induced amongst a community which, I fear, is naturally extravagant. Up to the present, however (August), the depositors have been very few in number.

There are numerous friendly societies in the Settlement, principally in the form of burial clubs, whose proceedings are regulated by an Ordinance passed in 1865. These societies may, if they wish, take advantage of the savings bank for the deposit of their funds.

Education.

There is no Government school in the Settlement, but the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan Missionary bodies are actively engaged in educational work. The Colonial chaplain likewise has a school in connexion with the Established Church.

The Roman Catholics carry on four public schools, and the Wesleyans seven, the latter extending their labours to McCarthy's Island, Albreda, Barra, and British Combo.

There are likewise eight Mohammedan schools in Bathurst, at which about 200 children of both sexes receive instruction.

The year 1885 was notable in the educational history of the Settlement, as it was the first year in which an inspection of the schools was made by Mr. Sunter, the Inspector of Schools, since the passing of the Education Ordinance in 1882.

Mr. Sunter's examination was thorough and exhaustive and his able and interesting report, which has been printed in the form of a pamphlet, gives every possible detail which can be desired in regard to educational matters in the Settlement.

It has been frequently pointed out that Gambia, although the oldest Settlement in West Africa, is the most backward in a scholastic sense, and it is feared that Mr. Sunter's investigations only too surely corroborate the truth of this statement.

In all, 13 schools were inspected, including one at McCarthy's Island. The total number of scholars on the registers were 1,118, and the average attendance 580. The population of the whole colony is 14,150.

Mr. Sunter very properly points out that the general teaching is too mechanical. He truly says in one part of his report, "Very slight indeed are the attempts made to bring about an intellectual and rational evolvment of the mental faculties. The reading is nearly all mechanically taught, sight and sound being attended to with scarcely any understanding"

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The Inspector lays great stress upon the existing need for industrial training in the Settlement, which is almost wholly neglected. With the exception of the Roman Catholic Sisters, who teach domestic economy, baking, washing, ironing, &c., it may be said that no training of the youth of either sex in this direction is attempted. It is a lamentable fact that there is not a single mechanic in the Settlement who may be called a "master" of his trade, though it should be stated that the building of small craft of from 5 to 40 tons burthen has attained to a fair degree of development, some of the local cutters being well shaped and strongly constructed of rosewood. A slovenliness, however, is noticeable in the best work, which applies alike to shipwrights, carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, and the rest. It may be remarked that it is not possible to get a pair of boots decently mended in Bathurst, or of course made. This arises from the fact that directly a youth learns the first principles of his trade, he immediately proceeds to set up for himself. Exceptional advantages are offered in Sierra Leone for the teaching of shoemaking; for Freetown contains a master of his art in Mr. Samuel Inniss, a West Indian, who has long been resident there, and who, to my knowledge, could give constant occupation to industrious youths willing to work continuously at this trade.

The expense connected with any system of industrial training which would be effective no doubt forms a bar to the embarkation in such an enterprise by the missionary bodies; but the Government has the matter under consideration, and there can be little doubt that money judiciously expended in this direction would not be thrown away.

In 1883, under an inspection from Mr. Cates, the earnings of the schools which took advantage of the Ordinance of 1882 amounted to 33*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* Prior to the passing of this Ordinance an annual grant of 300*l.* per annum was voted for the assistance of education in the Settlement. The withdrawal of so large a sum as the difference between the old grant and the school earnings for 1883 naturally excited comment from the Secretary of State.

In 1884 there was no inspection, and therefore Mr. Sunter's Report embraced the years 1884-5. The results of his examination, so far as monetary reward to the schools was concerned, were as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
Wesleyans	-	-	97	1	9
Catholics	-	-	86	11	3
Anglicans	-	-	31	12	6
Total	-	-	215	5	6

Although these figures compare favourably with 1883, yet there is plenty of room for improvement.

Certain modifications, suggested by Mr. Sunter and approved by the Secretary of State, in the Ordinance and rules, have been carried out; and it is hoped that the year 1886 will show results tending to remove the stigma attached to educational matters in the Gambia. Not only the missionary bodies, but every well wisher to Africa resident in Bathurst, should endeavour by every means to help on the good work, and to wipe out the blot attached to our little community, if it be true when Mr. Sunter says, "I do not exaggerate in saying that it is lowest as regards moral and intellectual result of all the Colonies." This is a grave charge and says little for over 60 years of missionary labour in the Gambia.

Churches, &c.

There are six Wesleyan, one Episcopalian, and one Roman Catholic, churches in the Settlement, the average attendance being as follows:—

Wesleyan	-	-	-	1,269
Roman Catholic	-	-	-	500
Episcopalian	-	-	-	230
Total				<u>1,999</u>

Gaols, Prisoners, &c.

The following table exhibits a comparison of the number of committals in the years 1884 and 1885 respectively:—

Year.	Total Number of Persons Committed.	For Debt.	For safe Custody, or want of Bail.	Penal Punishment.	Daily average in Prison.	Number of Admissions to Hospital.	Daily Average on Sick List.	Number of Deaths.
1884	126	11	24	93	33	60	1	1 prisoner on trial.
1885	126	13	23	90	46	68	2	5

Of the 126 prisoners incarcerated 108 were men and 18 women. There were no juveniles; 13 committals were for debt.

The total cost for the year amounted to 496*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

The estimated earnings of the prisoners by labour amounted to 260*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

There was one escape from the gaol during 1885, and there were five deaths.

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Criminal Statistics.

The following tables exhibit a comparison between the offences committed in the year 1884 and those committed in 1885:—

Year.	Total Number of Offences reported.	Offences against the Person.	Larceny.	Offences to Property -other than prædial Larceny.	Other Offences.
1884 -	456	132	102	18	209
1885 -	445	127	101	8	208

Apprehensions and Summonses, and Disposition of foregoing Cases.

Year.	Number discharged for want of Prosecution or Evidence.	Number of Cases dismissed on the Merits.	Number of Persons summarily convicted.	Number of Persons committed for Trial in the Superior Courts.
1884 - -	197	55	174	30
1885 - -	185	78	199	27

Year.	Assaults and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injuries to Property.	Larceny.	Other Offences to Property.	Offences relating to Social Economy of Gambia.	Offences against Masters and Servants Act.	Other Offences.	Total.
1884	36	—	33	1	—	6	98	174
1885	53	—	37	—	—	24	81	195

Punishments in connexion with foregoing.

Year.	Fine.	Imprisonment in lieu of Fine or Surety.	Peremptory Imprison- ment.	Whipping.	Bound over with or without Sureties or other minor Punishment.	Total.
1884 - -	116	8	44	—	6	174
1885 - -	129	12	46	—	8	195

*Imports and Exports.*GAMBIA.

The Collector of Customs has been good enough to supply the under-mentioned notes on the Customs returns for 1885.

Imports.

These have reached for the year the value of 92,234*l.*; and the imports for 1884 having been of the value of 212,122*l.* there was a decrease of 119,888*l.*

Cotton goods were imported to the value of 13,499*l.* only as against 50,784*l.* in 1884; while the average import of the three years 1882–4 inclusive was to the value of 50,580*l.* the decrease in this article being therefore over 37,000*l.*

Cola Nuts.—497,258 lbs., valued at 21,585*l.*, were imported as compared with 588,056 lbs. in 1884, valued at 30,490*l.*, the decrease in value of this item amounting to 8,905*l.*

Tobacco reached 181,416 lbs. compared with 151,727 lbs. in the previous year, the average import of the three years 1882–84 being 220,813 lbs.; but this average is swollen by the abnormal import of 1883 induced by considerations connected with the then impending change of customs tariff.

Spirits of all kinds were imported to the extent of 39,350 gallons as against 36,375 in 1884, the import in 1883 having reached the abnormal amount of 71,572 gallons.

Wines reached 12,585 gallons against 25,967 gallons in 1884, and 23,484 gallons in 1883.

Salt shows 980 tons against 1,252 tons in 1884 and 1,140 tons in 1883.

Sugar, 84,482 lbs. as against 150,693 in 1884 and 125,923 lbs. in 1883.

Firearms, 2,865 as compared with 6,169 in 1884 and 5,101 in 1883.

Gunpowder, 261 barrels of 100 lbs. as against 760 barrels in 1884 and 1,114 barrels in 1883.

On all the minor articles of general importation is observable a proportionate decline, attributable to the stagnation of trade universally prevalent, and here intensified by the suspension of cultivation consequent on internecine war in some districts on which the Settlement is mainly dependent for the produce it exports.

Exports.

The returns show a considerable falling off in the staple export both in quantity and value, 12,353 tons of ground nuts valued at 87,110*l.*, having been exported as against 18,404 tons, valued at 141,391*l.*, exported in 1884, which shows a decrease of 6,051 tons in quantity and of 54,281*l.* in value, and, as compared with the average export of the three years 1882–84 inclusive, a decrease of 9,989 tons in quantity and of 93,309*l.* in value.

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Hides have been exported to the value of 7,280*l.*, as against 8,710*l.* in 1884, the average exports of the three years 1882-84 having been to the value of 5,067*l.*

Rubber has been exported to the value of 2,670*l.* only as against 23,213*l.* in 1884 and 6,048*l.* in 1883 prior to which there was no export of this article.

The exports of wax, corn, and palm kernels have been normal.

The total value of the exports for the year amounts to 119,385*l.* as against 199,483*l.* in 1884 and an average of 220,771*l.* for the three years 1882-84. The value exported, however, exceeds that of the imports by 27,151*l.*

Shipping.

The total number of sailing vessels entered during the year was 281.

The tonnage of these vessels in the aggregate amounted to 8,185, their crews to 1,419.

For the year 1884, only 150 sailing vessels entered, but the aggregate tonnage was larger, viz., 18,420 with crews 1,024.

The total number of sailing vessels cleared amounted to 283, with a tonnage of 9,306, and crews 1,458, while for the previous year 149 vessels cleared with a tonnage of 17,918 and crews 991.

The total number of steam vessels entered was 110, with tonnage amounting to 73,498 and crews 2,922.

For the previous year 70 steam vessels entered with tonnage of 56,751 and crews 2,070.

Clearances of steam vessels in 1885 totalled 109 with a tonnage of 73,453 and crews 2,909, while for the previous year 69 steamers cleared with a tonnage of 57,702 and crews 2,095.

Of the 281 sailing vessels entered the nationalities were as follows:—

British	-	-	-	-	-	91
French	-	-	-	-	-	182
American	-	-	-	-	-	5
Italian	-	-	-	-	-	3
Total						281

Of the 283 sailing vessels cleared the following were the nationalities:—

British	-	-	-	-	-	96
French	-	-	-	-	-	179
Italian	-	-	-	-	-	4
American	-	-	-	-	-	4
Total						283

Of the 110 steam vessels entered the following were the nationalities :—

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British	-	-	-	-	-	56
French	-	-	-	-	-	52
Norwegian	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total						<u>110</u>

Of the 109 steam vessels cleared the following were the nationalities :—

British	-	-	-	-	-	56
French	-	-	-	-	-	51
Norwegian	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total						<u>109</u>

The under-mentioned notes in regard to the general aspect of shipping for 1885 have been supplied by the Collector of Customs.

The returns show a decrease in sailing vessels of 10,235 tons entered and 8,612 cleared during the year as compared with 1884, and a decrease of 17,192 tons entered and 16,024 tons cleared as compared with the average of the three previous years (1882-84 inclusive).

On the other hand, the return of steamships shows an increase of 15,747 tons entered and 15,751 tons cleared as compared with 1884, and an increase of 20,084 tons entered and 20,287 tons cleared as compared with the average of the three previous years (1882-84 inclusive). This increase is accounted for by the more frequent visits of the mail steamers of the British and African Steamship Company from Europe, and the periodical visits of the "Rokelle" carrying mails from Senegal coastwise under contract with the French Government.

The greater frequency of the visits of these vessels affords increased convenience of communication, postal and otherwise, and meets the requirements of the more humble class of importers who are not in a position to charter vessels for their exclusive use; only a small proportion, however, of the general cargo carried in these ships is consigned to this port; and there is seldom any considerable export by them, as there is no great demand in Britain for the staple export of the Settlement, the ground nut, (*arachis hypogea*) which is for the most part destined for Marseilles.

Hospitals.

There is but little variation in the number of cases treated in 1885 from that of the previous year, while in 1884 there remained in the hospital from 1883 a total number of 15 patients (seven male and eight female), in 1885 there remained from 1884 a total of 10 (eight males and two female).

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During 1884 there were admitted 216 patients, of whom 187 were males and 29 females; and there were 26 deaths.

In 1885 the total number of cases under treatment amounted to 219, of whom 186 were males and 33 females. The number of deaths was 29, viz., 22 males and 7 females.

The principal diseases treated, with resulting deaths, will be found in the following table:—

Diseases treated.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.
Abscess - - - - -	5	—
Acute metritis - - - - -	1	—
Adynamia - - - - -	9	5
Anasarca - - - - -	4	1
Burn - - - - -	1	—
Cachexia - - - - -	3	1
Flagellation - - - - -	1	—
Brain disease - - - - -	21	5
Disease of circulatory organs - - - - -	12	5
cutaneous system - - - - -	6	1
" digestive organs - - - - -	32	2
" eye - - - - -	10	—
" generative organs - - - - -	4	1
" nervous system - - - - -	20	—
" respiratory organs - - - - -	18	2
Febris intermittens - - - - -	17	—
Fracture - - - - -	15	—
Insolation - - - - -	1	—
Moribund - - - - -	2	2
Nasal polypus - - - - -	1	—
Oedema - - - - -	2	—
Sebaceous rannula - - - - -	1	—
Venereal disease - - - - -	21	4
Ulcers - - - - -	16	—
Wounds - - - - -	16	—
Total - - - - -	229	29

At the end of the year there were 21 patients remaining in hospital, 5 males and 16 females.

There is no lunatic asylum in the Settlement. All cases of mental disease are therefore sent to Sierra Leone for treatment.

The addition of tanks for the reception of rain water has provided a much needed improvement to the hospital at Bathurst. Previously to 1885 water was used from a well in the yard, which, according to analysis made in England, contained various impurities. The building itself is airy and commodious, and as a general rule suffices for the needs of the Colony. Better arrangements might be made for the reception of female patients, who at present are certainly relegated to the worst part of the establishment, as the bungalow in which they are treated is but slightly raised from the ground, and in the rainy season cannot be very healthy. This is a matter which I think merits attention when the funds of the Colony will permit.

*Climate, Meteorology, &c.***GAMBIA.**

Very little attention has hitherto been paid to this important point in the Gambia, the Blue Book forms prepared for the record of meteorologic phenomena having been invariably disregarded. As, however, much misconception and differences of opinion exist concerning the climate of this portion of West Africa, I propose to give the results of certain observations of my own in regard to the readings of the barometer and thermometer during the year 1885.

It would appear from early accounts in the Colonial Office list that a "register of the thermometer kept at the Military Hospital at Bathurst in 1821" showed "that in January of that year the maximum was 80° and the minimum of 75°, whilst in September they were respectively 89° and 85°." Governor McDonnell, on the other hand, reported in 1850 "that for several months in the year the thermometer in the morning at Bathurst varies from 58° to 64°, and that for the greater portion of the year refreshing land and sea-breezes blow over the town."

Coming to more recent years, I find, in a book entitled "Physical and Medical climate and Meteorology of the West Coast of Africa," by Doctor Horton, that he gives the following results of his readings of the maximum and minimum thermometers for the months indicated :—

					Maximum Thermometer.	Minimum Thermometer.
					St. Mary's.	St. Mary's.
January	-	-	-	-	99.5	59
February	-	-	-	-	101	62
March	-	-	-	-	108	60
April	-	-	-	-	108	60
May	-	-	-	-	99	60
June	-	-	-	-	99	60
July	-	-	-	-	99	60
August	-	-	-	-	99	60
September	-	-	-	-	106	60

So far as my investigations have gone I am quite unable to endorse anything approaching to these readings, and I can only account for the results arrived at by Doctor Horton on the supposition that his maximum thermometer must have been placed

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in a situation where it was affected by the sun's radiation and that the minimum thermometer was exposed all night on the grass; even then I doubt whether the low minimum of 60° could have been reached through seven months of the year.

I purposely placed my thermometer in a position which would indicate the ordinary temperature in which an European lives when not exposed to the sun, having suspended it against a wall in my bedroom, and, though this may not be the most orthodox fashion of recording temperatures, yet such a position, in my opinion, more correctly realises one's climatic experience so far as bodily sensation is concerned, than if the instrument is exposed to extremes of atmospheric influences.

I regret that the exigencies of my office prevented my taking the temperature at 2 p.m., instead of at noon, as the latter (? former) hour is, in my experience, usually the hottest part of the day, and at times I have known the higher reading to continue with little variation up to midnight, but such cases are exceptional.

Doctor Horton, in the work previously alluded to, writes as follows:—"In West Africa the temperature of the air is at its lowest at 4 o'clock a.m. and its maximum at 3 p.m., from which it gradually begins to fall until 4 a.m." This does not wholly accord with my experiences in Bathurst. I have not, it is true, worked with a minimum thermometer; but I have examined the accurate instrument with which I made my records at all hours of the night and at various seasons, and I have found that the lowest temperature is shortly after sunrise, the thermometer almost invariably dropping a degree, or a degree and a half, between 6 and 7 a.m.

Barometrical readings are of but little value from a scientific point of view in the Gambia. There is the same diurnal range between certain hours which is observable generally within the tropics. The most violent tornado has not the smallest effect on the working of the instrument, and the range and pressure seem to vary very little either in the rainy or in the dry season. Taking two dates at random, say the 29th April, the height of the dry season, and 29th of August, the height of the rainy season, the records are as follows:—

29th April, 10 a.m., 29.95; 4 p.m., 29.80.

29th August, 10 a.m., 29.95; 4 p.m., 29.87.

The fall, possibly, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (an almost invariable rule within the tropics) is greater in the dry than in the rainy season, but this result is not sufficiently constant to establish any rule in the matter. Although it will be anticipating information properly belonging to 1886, I may mention as a curious circumstance, that on the 9th January the barometer stood at 29.95° without movement between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. In my remarks on the weather I observe: "Heavy rain from seaward" 8.30 a.m.; thermometer, 9 a.m., 66° (a drop of 2° since 7 a.m.); "wind, northerly, fresh," This is the only instance in the whole

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of my records of a stationary barometer between the hours named. It would appear, then, that there are isolated circumstances which affect the instrument even in this region which does not fall within the western cyclonic area. In the West Indies, where I paid some attention to barometrical observations, the action of the instrument is precisely similar to that which occurs in Western Africa, with the exception that infallible warning of a hurricane is always given by the suspension of the rule of alternate increase and decrease of pressure every six hours. To be precise, the barometer is at its maximum at 10 a.m.; then steadily goes down until 4. p.m., usually falling about $\frac{1}{10}$ of an inch during the six hours, after which there is a corresponding rise until 10 p.m.; it falls and rises in the same manner during the night and early morning, so that the maximum, as before observed, is reached at 10 a.m. In a hurricane the disturbance of normal conditions is so great that the mercury falls from 1.5 in. to 2.5 in., according to whether the locality of observation is near to or far from the central path of the storm.

The following table gives the mean temperature during the various months, taken at the hours of 7 a.m. and noon. Doubtless, had the maximum temperature been taken, which occurs according to my observation at about 2 or 3 p.m., the mean would have been somewhat in excess of that given; but, except during the months when the Harmattan (N.E. to E.S.E.) wind blows, there is but little rise in the thermometer after noon:—

Months, 1885.	Mean Temperature.	
	7 a.m.	Noon.
	°	°
January - - - - -	68.5	73.7
February - - - - -	72	78
March - - - - -	68.3	75
April - - - - -	70.5	76.5
May - - - - -	70	74
June (19 days only) - - - - -	77	80
July - - - - -	80	82.5
August - - - - -	78	80.5
September - - - - -	76.5	78.7
October (30 days) - - - - -	79.8	82.6
November - - - - -	76	79.5
December (27 days) - - - - -	72.2	76

The Harmattan wind usually sets in early in December, and is eagerly looked for after the airless oppressive weather in October and November. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and, though cool

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and bracing in the early morning, becomes hot under the influence of the sun as it slackens in the middle of the day. The Harmattan is an intermittent wind, blowing for a few days, and being then succeeded by the refreshing sea breeze, which in its turn gives way to the Harmattan. This interchange usually lasts up to the middle of April, the month of February being the time when the Harmattan is most prevalent. Its effects may be seen on the mean temperature for this month, which ranges higher than that of the preceding or three following months.

The months of July and October are decidedly the most unpleasant and unhealthy months in Bathurst. In July the sea breeze has stopped blowing, the sun is very hot, and stifling, airless days may be expected preparatory to the commencement of the rains, which are generally ushered in by dry tornadoes, followed by these storms accompanied by heavy rain. The middle of June is about the time when rain may first be expected, but the wet season does not become thoroughly established until a month later, the latter part of July and the whole of August and September being conspicuous for more or less continuous rain. The year 1885 was noticeable for a light rainy season, which told prejudicially upon the native agriculturalists. The total rainfall for the year amounted to 39·45 inches, while that for the preceding year (1884) totalled 87·88 inches. The first rain fell on the 31st May and the last recorded shower occurred on the 25th October.

As a rule, I think it may be considered that a heavy, rainy season means a healthy season, more especially if tornadoes are frequent with their usual accompaniment of thunder and lightning. No one who has resided in Western Africa can fail to appreciate the pleasant sensations experienced after one of these beneficent storms has passed over; a weight seems lifted from one's being, the air becomes unusually clear and pure, and the temperature is considerably lowered. The wind seldom blows with sufficient force to do any material damage during the progress of a tornado, and the most violent storms usually expend their force in an hour or two.

The Island of St. Mary has the advantage (in one sense) of possessing a light, sandy soil, and consequently the heaviest rain soon percolates through and does not stagnate on the flat surface of the Island. It is, of course, very difficult to effect any satisfactory system of drainage under such circumstances, though attempts have been made in this direction. With a more retentive soil Bathurst would be uninhabitable during the rains. As it is, the region known as "Half Die" is a continual swamp, and much sickness prevails in that district in the rainy season. It may not be inappropriate to mention here that efforts are being made to raise the level of Half Die so as to obviate this defect.

Taken as a whole, the climate of the Gambia is decidedly superior to that of any other British settlement in West Africa, though at certain seasons intermittent and remittent fevers are

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very prevalent, few Europeans escaping an attack of one or other of these forms between the months of July and October. Natives form no exception to this rule, though with them the disease is rarely fatal. The point which has always struck me about the Gambia is the *dryness* of its climate as compared with Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast. Even during the rainy season one's boots only in a minor degree get coated with the damp fungoid deposit which is so noticeable in other places. From December to June there are periods of phenomenal dryness, more especially during the occurrence of the Harmattan wind; but the sea breeze which blows from the north and north-west, and is the prevailing wind during three months, is not charged with moisture to the same extent as similar winds in Sierra Leone and on the Gold Coast. The far more copious rainfall, and the physical conformation of Sierra Leone, which is mountainous and wooded, will account for the excessive dampness of this region, but on the Gold Coast much of the inconvenience in this respect is caused by the strong sea breeze, blowing the salt spray from the heavy surf across the land. The average rainfall at Accra is considerably less than in the Gambia.

The heaviest fall in any one day took place between the 31st July and 1st August, when 4.50 in. were registered. The rain gauge is situated at the Colonial Hospital, and the barometrical and thermometrical readings were taken at the Military Hospital. These buildings are close to each other.

The height of the thermometer in the Gambia, or, indeed, in West Africa generally, must not be taken as a guide to one's sensations of heat; for although I have never myself seen the mercury touch 90° at any hour of the day, hanging against the wall in my bedroom, yet there are times at Bathurst when, to judge by one's feelings, 10° might well be added to the 90°. This is especially the case during the month of October, which is exceedingly trying to Europeans. The rains have ceased, and the process of drying up is going on, or in other words, nature's distillery for malaria is in active operation. There rarely a breeze of any kind, or, if at all, a land wind charged with poison from miles of foetid swamp. Such as it is, however, it is welcomed; for during the oppressively still days and nights there seems to be an absence of air for breathing purposes. This, however, is the dark side of the picture, and, fortunately, the state of things described is only of short duration. Taking all things into consideration, climatically speaking, the conditions of life are more bearable in the Gambia than in any other part of West Africa. This opinion, I may add, is based upon four years' personal experience in Sierra Leone, and three years on the Gold Coast.

I append the detailed records of the barometrical and thermometrical readings for the greater part of the year 1885:—

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*Readings of Barometer and Thermometer at Bathurst,
commencing on the 1st January 1885.*

Date.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Remarks.
	10 a.m.	4 p.m.	7 a.m.	Noon.	
January					
1	29.94	29.78	71	76	Fine breeze all day, and cooler.
2	29.95	29.79	74	76	Warmer, and breeze slackened.
3	29.96	29.75	70	74	Much cooler, with fresh breeze; strong after midnight.
4 Su.	29.96	29.74	67	74	Temperature much lower; very cool night.
5	29.93	29.72	65	73	Very pleasant all day; wind dropped in the evening, but temperature cool.
6	29.95	29.73	66	75	Breeze light.
7	30.00	29.76	73	75	Harmattan, and warmer; very still all day; afternoon, thermometer 76° 8 p.m.
8	29.98	29.75	68	75	Pleasant day; breeze light, afternoon, strong at night.
9	29.90	29.80	67	75	Do. do. strong breeze all night.
10	29.95	29.83	66	73	Wet bulb 58° at 7 a.m.; cool day.
11 Su.	29.98	29.85	63	72	Very cold morning with strong breeze.
12	29.96	29.84	68	75	Less breeze and warmer during day.
13	29.95	29.84	69	75	Do. do.
14	30.00	29.85	69	75	Weather hot for time of the year.
15	29.98	29.83	66	73	Cooler in the morning; no breeze during day.
16	30.00	29.85	65	71	Fresh breeze and cool.
17	30.00	29.86	67	70	Do. do.
18	29.98	29.85	70	70	Dull, cloudy morning; slight rain during night; cloudy all day.
19	30.00	29.87	70	72	Cloudy still, with little breeze.
20	30.04	29.90	70	72	Pleasant day; brighter.
21	30.05	29.87	69	72	Sea breeze all day; cool and pleasant.
22	30.05	29.86	68	76	
23	30.08	29.95	68	72	
24	30.03	29.91	68	73	
25	30.00	29.90	69	74	
26	29.98	29.89	67	73	
27	29.98	29.90	72	74	Less breeze and warmer.
28	30.05	29.95	72	74	
29	30.04	29.94	71	76	
30	29.99	29.90	68	75	Pleasant weather, with sea breeze again.
31	30.01	29.90	68	74	Do. do. Mean temperature for month, 7 a.m. 68.5, noon 73.7.
February					
1	30.04	29.93	70	77	Thermometer at 9 p.m., 79°; Harmattan all day.
2	30.02	29.90	76	79	Harmattan blowing till 3 p.m.
3	30.03	29.91	74	80	Strong Harmattan; thermometer 82° at 7 p.m.
4	30.00	29.99	73	78	Do. do.
5	29.95	29.79	74	80	Harmattan not so strong; thermometer 84° at 4 p.m.
6	29.93	29.73	74	79	Calm all day; light sea breeze after 6.30 p.m.
7	29.94	29.76	75	80	Same calm, hot weather.
8	29.98	29.80	74	79	Do. do.
9	29.95	29.81	75	80	Do. do.
10	29.96	29.83	75	79	Do. do.
11	29.98	29.86	74	80	Do. do.
12	29.85	29.73	74	78	Hot during day, cool breeze sprang up at 7 p.m. thermometer, 73° 11 p.m.
13	29.87	29.68	72	76	Cooler in morning, and a little sea breeze.
14	29.80	29.72	74	76	Do. hot during day.
15	29.83	29.76	74	76	Moderate breeze all day; stronger in evening
16	29.98	29.89	70	73	Strong breeze during [day]; temperature lower.
17	30.02	29.91	70	73	Sea breeze, but not so strong; heavy dew at night.
18	29.98	29.85	68	76	Breeze lighter, with same heavy dew at night.
19	29.93	29.80	72	75	Do. do.
20	29.95	29.79	70	75	Strong breeze sprang up at 7 p.m., lasting all night.
21	29.93	29.82	69	72	Breeze still very strong and continuous.
22	30.00	29.82	65	75	Do. do.
23	29.95	29.82	66	76	Breeze not quite so strong.
24	29.94	29.83	68	76	Do. do.
25	29.95	29.82	73	80	Breeze falling.
26	29.92	29.80	73	84	Light breeze all night; calm in morning, 11 a.m.; hot wind from S.E. with higher temperature; very hazy.
27	29.92	29.75	73	84	Similar day to preceding, with S.E. wind.
28	29.92	29.73	74	82	Strong Harmattan sprang up at 8.30; mean temperature for month, 7 a.m., 72; noon, 78°.
March					
1	29.90	29.79	76	82	Harmattan, but not so strong.
2	29.85	29.74	75	86	Do. do.
3	29.90	29.75	73	78	Not much breeze, but cooler.
4	29.87	29.77	72	76	Sea breeze set in the morning; strong all night.

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Date.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Remarks.
	10 a.m.	4 p.m.	7 a.m.	Noon.	
March					
5	29.88	29.78	70	76	Pleasant day, with sea breeze.
6	29.90	29.80	71	76	Less breeze, but cool.
7	29.95	29.80	71	73	Sea breeze set in at 10.30 a.m.; very pleasant temperature.
8	29.93	29.81	70	73	Strong breeze all night, and continued all day; thermometer 73° at 3 p.m.
9	29.91	29.80	68	72	Breeze continued; very pleasant weather.
10	29.93	29.81	66	74	Do. do.
11	29.93	29.83	66	72	Do. do.
12	29.95	29.81	65	74	Do. do.
13	29.93	29.80	67	78	Breeze fell at 10.30 a.m., increase at 2 p.m., and blew steadily all night.
14	29.90	29.78	68	78	Breeze light in morning; strong after 11 a.m.
15	29.89	29.78	69	79	Pleasant breeze all day and night.
16	30.00	29.80	68	78	Do. do.
17	29.98	29.79	66	78	Do. do.
18	30.00	29.80	67	74	Do. do.
19	29.92	29.77	71	73	Less breeze in evening and night; morning cloudy.
20	29.95	29.79	70	74	Much the same as the day before.
21	29.95	29.78	68	73	Cloudy morning, with a sprinkle of rain.
22	29.98	29.80	69	72	Cloudy, with strong breeze.
23	29.97	29.80	68	72	Cloudy, but breeze still strong.
24	29.90	29.78	70	73	Cloudy, but breeze lighter.
25	29.90	29.80	72	74	Not much breeze at night; wind S.E. 7 a.m.
26	29.92	29.80	69	72	Very strong sea breeze all day; bright.
27	29.95	29.81	67	71	Do. do.
28	29.92	29.80	67	70	Do. do.
29	29.91	29.82	63	70	Do. do.
30	29.95	29.80	66	73	Breeze somewhat lighter; full moon.
31	29.93	29.81	68	76	Do. do. Mean temperature during month 7 a.m. 68°3', noon 75°.
April					
1	29.92	29.80	69	73	Breeze very strong again.
2	29.95	29.82	63	72	Blowing very hard all night and continued all day.
3	29.91	29.80	63	76	Do. do.
4	29.98	29.83	66	78	Wind shifted to E.; strong Harmattan.
5	29.98	29.80	70	79	Harmattan wind from S.E. in afternoon; thermometer, 4 p.m. 85°
6	29.90	29.81	76	79	Still, warm night, sand flies abundant.
7	29.98	29.83	75	78	Somewhat cooler, but breeze light.
8	29.80	29.70	73	80	Breeze still continues light.
9	29.81	29.72	74	81	Do. do.
10	29.80	29.73	70	77	Do. do.
11	29.90	29.80	70	77	Breeze somewhat stronger.
12	29.90	29.81	70	78	Do. do.
13	29.95	29.82	70	75	Cloudy day, with good breeze.
14	29.94	29.83	70	76	Bright, with pleasant breeze.
15	29.92	29.80	71	78	Less breeze and warmer.
16	29.90	29.81	74	88	Very hot day, with Harmattan.
17	29.59	29.80	73	80	Hot; much breeze, but cooler.
18	29.91	29.79	72	78	Breeze stronger from the sea.
19	29.96	29.80	69	74	Much cooler, with strong breeze.
20	29.95	29.81	70	73	Do. do.
21	29.93	29.82	70	75	Less breeze, but pleasant.
22	29.80	29.72	72	80	Warmer day, with little breeze.
23	29.87	29.79	76	83	Calm, hot day.
24	29.90	29.80	73	76	Cloudy day and cool; thermometer, 7 p.m., 70°.
25	29.92	29.81	72	75	Pleasant day and cloudy.
26	29.90	29.80	72	76	Much the same; hazy in the evening.
27	29.92	29.79	72	74	Do. do.
28	29.95	29.81	69	71	Very cool day; hazy and damp; thermometer, 68° at 9 p.m.
29	29.95	29.80	66	69	Same as yesterday, only lower temperature.
30	29.96	29.79	66	68	Overcast up to 9 p.m., stronger breeze after; very cool; thermometer, 9 a.m., 66°; mean for month, 7 a.m. 70°5', noon 76°5'.
May					
1	29.96	29.80	68	71	Brighter and not so much breeze, but pleasant day.
2	29.94	29.79	65	68	Very cool, pleasant day.
3	29.95	29.80	68	72	Somewhat warmer, but fresh breeze.
4	29.95	29.79	70	75	Not so much breeze.
5	30.00	29.80	71	74	Breeze fresh, but not so cool.
6	30.00	29.78	73	79	Warm in morning, strong breeze afternoon.
7	29.98	29.80	74	78	Do. do.
8	29.95	29.81	69	74	Much cooler in the morning; strong breeze.
9	29.97	29.80	70	75	Breeze continues, but warmer.
10	30.00	29.82	70	73	Very pleasant day with strong breeze.
11	29.95	29.80	70	72	Past night cooler than usual.
12	29.92	29.79	70	73	Weather continues very pleasant with cool breeze.
13	29.90	29.78	70	73	Do. do. do.
14	30.00	29.80	70	73	Do. do. do.

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Date.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Rain-fall.	Remarks.
	10 a.m.	4 p.m.	7 a.m.	Noon.		
May						
15	30.00	29.82	70	73	—	Weather continues very pleasant with cool breeze.
16	29.98	29.80	71	74	—	Do. do.
17	30.01	29.82	72	74	—	Do. do.
18	30.00	29.80	73	74	—	Do. do.
19	29.95	29.78	73	78	—	Past night warmer; no breeze in the morning.
20	29.95	29.79	75	81	—	Weather much warmer generally.
21	30.00	29.80	75	80	—	Very warm day, with no breeze; thermometer 81° 7 a.m.
22	29.90	29.78	80	84	—	Still very warm.
23	29.92	29.80	77	83	—	Do.
24		Absent.			—	
25	30.00	29.89	80	83	—	Light breeze and warm.
26	30.00	29.90	77	81	—	Cooler, but not much breeze; cloudy.
27	29.95	29.86	75	83	—	Good breeze and cool indoors.
28	29.90	29.79	75	78	—	Cloudy and cool all day.
29	29.90	29.75	75	78	—	Do. do.
30	29.95	—	75	79	—	Do. do.
31		Absent.			—	Rain in morning at Bathurst; none at Lamin, seven miles off. Mean for month, 9 a.m., 70°; noon, 74°.
June						
1	30.00	29.90	75	80	—	Cloudy; strong breeze in evening.
2	29.95	29.83	75	79	—	Pleasant breeze all past night; continued during day.
3	30.02	29.88	76	80	—	Strong breeze all night, dropped at about 4.0 p.m.
4	29.97	29.85	75	79	—	Less breeze, but pleasant day.
5	29.98	29.84	75	79	—	Much the same.
6	30.00	29.82	73	77	—	Cooler, with stronger breeze.
7	30.02	29.85	75	79	—	Very pleasant day; breeze stronger towards evening; thermometer 74° 8 a.m.
8	30.00	29.86	74	77	—	Weather still very pleasant.
9	29.95	29.83	75	77	—	Do. do. Strong breeze all night.
10	30.00	29.80	75	77	—	Cloudy morning; cool and pleasant day.
11	30.02	29.81	75	77	—	Left for Albreda with Governor.
12	—	—	—	—	—	
13	—	—	—	—	—	
14	—	—	—	—	—	
15	—	—	—	—	—	
16	—	—	—	—	—	
17	—	—	—	—	—	
18	—	—	—	—	—	
19	—	—	—	—	0.59	
20	—	—	—	—	0.45	
21	—	—	—	—	—	
22	—	—	—	—	—	
23	30.00	29.80	78	82	—	Weather much hotter, with less breeze.
24	30.00	29.81	80	83	—	Do. do.
25	30.02	29.80	80	83	—	Do. do.
26	30.05	29.90	80	83	—	Do. do.
27	30.05	29.91	79	82	—	Cloudy, with symptoms of a tornado.
28	30.05	29.90	80	83	—	
29	30.08	29.92	81	84	—	
30	30.03	29.90	80	84	0.59	Mean temperature for month (19 days) 7 a.m., 77°; noon, 80°.
July						
1	30.05	29.91	78	82	—	
2	30.04	29.90	81	83	—	
3	30.00	29.90	79	81	—	Strong sea breeze all past night and during day.
4	29.97	29.89	82	86	—	Hot, calm night.
5	29.95	29.87	80	84	—	
6	30.05	29.89	80	84	—	
7	30.03	29.86	81	85	—	
8	30.00	29.85	80	85	—	Tornado threatened between 2 and 4 p.m., but passed off with slight rain; hot night afterwards.
9	30.05	29.86	81	85	—	
10	30.00	29.82	79	82	0.06	Tornado at 2 a.m. with rain.
11	30.00	29.90	80	83	—	Strong breeze all past night.
12	30.02	29.90	80	83	—	
13	29.95	29.85	76	80	0.52	Tornado during night with heavy rain.
14	29.97	29.90	79	82	—	Rain commenced at 3.30.
15	30.00	29.89	78	82	0.25	
16	30.00	29.88	80	82	—	Very hot, stifling night.
17	29.95	29.85	80	82	—	
18	29.95	29.85	80	82	—	
19	29.93	29.84	81	84	—	Hot, close day.
20	30.00	29.86	81	79	2.1	Very hot night (82° 5.30 a.m.); heavy rain set in at 7 p.m., lowering temperature; cleared up at noon.

Date.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Rain-fall.	Remarks.
	10 a.m.	4 p.m.	7 a.m.	Noon.		
July						
21	29·97	29·84	79	83	0·68	Shower at 8 p.m.
22	29·98	29·86	80	83	0·90	Rain during night; heavy rain at 5 p.m. with vivid lightning and thunder; not much wind.
23	30·00	29·87	80	83	—	
24	29·98	29·85	80	83	—	
25	30·00	29·86	79	80	0·22	
26	29·95	29·83	80	79	0·04	
27	30·00	29·87	79	81	0·51	Tornado at 5 a.m., and another very heavy one at 9 p.m., accompanied by vivid lightning, and consequent peals of thunder.
28	29·93	29·84	79	81	—	
29	29·92	29·82	78	80	0·01	Slight tornado at 5 a.m., with a little rain; breeze from E.S.E. lowering thermometer.
30	30·00	29·84	78	83	—	
31	29·93	29·80	76	76	0·72	Heavy rain set in at 8.30 p.m., and lasted more or less all night. Mean temperature, 7 a.m., 80°; noon 82·5°.
August						
1	29·91	29·82	77	80	4·50	
2	29·90	29·81	79	81	—	
3	29·92	29·81	79	81	0·05	Tornado at 4 a.m.; heavy rain up to 10 a.m.
4	29·90	29·78	79	78	2·16	
5	29·85	29·74	75	76	2·18	Very heavy rain.
6	29·90	29·80	75	76	1·35	Do.
7	29·91	29·82	76	78	1·23	
8	29·94	29·83	77	80	0·27	
9	29·92	29·82	77	80	0·44	
10	29·90	29·81	78	80	0·17	} Raining more or less, with hot intermission.
11	29·90	29·80	79	81	0·50	
12	29·95	29·83	77	78	0·47	
13	29·93	29·82	78	80	0·05	Bright day, with little rain.
14	29·95	29·84	78	82	—	Fine day.
15	29·93	29·82	80	82	—	Do.
16	29·92	29·83	79	82	—	Do.
17	29·94	29·86	79	82	—	Do.
18	30·00	29·89	79	82	—	Do.
19	30·00	29·88	80	82	—	Do. Slight rain at about 8.30 a.m.
20	29·98	29·88	79	80	—	
21	30·00	29·89	79	81	0·66	Tornado at about 4 p.m.; heavy rain at 7 p.m.
22	30·00	29·88	78	81	1·97	
23	30·01	29·90	79	82	0·81	
24	30·00	29·91	80	82	—	
25	29·98	29·89	80	84	0·17	
26	29·98	29·88	79	82	0·21	
27	30·00	29·89	79	78	0·16	Very heavy rain.
28	29·90	29·79	78	79	3·57	Heavy rain during night.
29	29·95	29·87	78	78	0·07	
30	29·93	29·85	77	77	1·77	Cloudy up to 10 a.m., then brightened; thermometer 4.0 p.m., 80°.
31	29·95	29·87	78	80	0·03	Mean temperature, 7 a.m., 78°; noon, 80·5°.
Sept.						
1	29·94	29·87	79	81	—	Fine day.
2	29·95	29·87	78	77	0·89	Very heavy rain commenced at 8 a.m.
3	29·96	29·88	79	81	1·69	
4	29·93	29·84	79	81	—	Fine day.
5	29·94	29·84	78	80	—	Do.
6	29·95	29·85	79	81	—	Do.
7	29·97	29·86	79	81	0·07	
8	30·00	29·88	79	78	0·45	
9	30·02	29·87	80	82	0·82	Tornado, with heavy rain at 7.30 a.m.
10	30·00	29·90	81	82	1·30	
11	30·02	29·90	80	82	—	
12	30·00	29·91	80	78	—	Past night very hot and airless.
13	29·98	29·89	79	80	0·37	Tornado 8 a.m.
14	30·00	29·90	80	82	0·18	
15	30·00	29·90	78	80	0·73	
16	29·98	29·89	80	83	—	
17	30·00	29·90	82	86	—	Hot day, with no breeze.
18	30·08	29·95	80	84	0·42	Bright day; strong breeze from E. at 11 a.m. for two hours; no rain.
19	30·03	29·92	80	84	—	Bright day.
20	30·00	29·90	80	84	—	
21	29·98	29·89	80	83	0·06	
22	30·05	29·92	78	81	0·36	
23	30·03	29·90	77	81	0·41	
24	30·05	29·94	78	81	—	Tornado 7.30 a.m.

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Date.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Rain-fall.	Remarks.
	10 a.m.	4 p.m.	7 a.m.	Noon.		
Sept.						
25	30° 03	29° 95	80	83	0·18	
26	30° 04	29° 95	80	83	0·02	
27	30° 05	29° 97	80	81	—	Cloudy day and cool.
28	30° 04	29° 96	78	81	—	Bright day, with pleasant sea breeze; strong after 7 p.m.; thermometer 10 p.m., 78°.
29	30° 05	29° 95	76	80	—	Fine bright; breeze all night, and continued during day.
30	30° 05	29° 96	77	79	—	Breeze all night and early morning; dropped at 10 p.m., cloudy; temperature, 7 a.m., 78° 5°; noon, 78° 7°.
Oct.						
1	30° 03	29° 94	78	81	—	
2	30° 05	29° 93	79	81	—	
3	30° 03	29° 94	79	81	0·02	Tornado during night, with slight rain.
4	30° 05	29° 95	79	82	—	Blew heavily during night, but no rain; hot, still morning.
5	30° 03	29° 94	79	83	—	
6	29° 98	29° 91	80	83	—	Cool breeze all night; bright, hot day.
7	30° 00	29° 90	80	84	—	Very hot, still day; hazy.
8	30° 00	29° 90	80	84	—	Do. bright.
9	30° 02	29° 91	81	85	—	Do. do.
10	29° 95	29° 86	81	83	—	Cooler night; pleasant breeze; morning cloudy, with sea breeze.
11	30° 00	29° 90	78	82	—	Very pleasant night with close breeze; strong breeze from 3 up to noon.
12	30° 01	29° 92	80	83	—	Still day and night; close.
13	29° 97	29° 89	80	82	—	10.30 a.m., smart shower.
14	29° 95	29° 88	79	80	—	Heavy rain during day.
15	29° 93	29° 84	78	81	—	
16	29° 95	29° 83	79	81	—	
17	29° 98	29° 87	80	77	—	Strong breeze from S.W. sprang up at 8 a.m., with rain, lowering temperature.
18	29° 95	29° 83	78	82	—	
19	29° 93	29° 84	80	84	—	Bright and warm.
20	29° 95	29° 82	80	84	—	Do.
21	30° 00	29° 86	80	84	—	Thermometer, 86° 4 p.m.
22	29° 97	29° 87	82	80	—	Bright and warm; no breeze.
23	29° 95	29° 86	80	84	—	Warm day; cooler towards evening.
24	30° 00	29° 80	80	83	—	Cooler; wind, S.S.E. (land).
25	Absent.				—	Tornado, with heavy rain at 4 p.m.; rain lasted some hours.
26	30° 00	29° 90	78	80	—	
27	30° 00	29° 91	80	84	—	Still, bright weather; very close.
28	29° 98	29° 90	80	84	—	Do. do.
29	29° 97	29° 88	80	84	—	Do. do.
30	29° 98	29° 87	80	84	—	Do. do.
31	30° 00	29° 90	79	84	—	Do. do. Mean temperature, 7 a.m., 79° 8°; noon, 82° 6° (30 days).
Total rainfall, 1893					— 39·45	
Nov.						
1	30° 00	29° 90	80	84	—	Mean temperature, 7 a.m., 79° 8°; noon, 82° 6° (30 days).
2	29° 96	29° 87	80	83	—	Hazy and dull; no breeze.
3	29° 95	29° 86	80	82	—	Thermometer dropped 1° by 8 a.m.; breeze from E. all night.
4	29° 95	29° 85	77	82	—	Slight Harmattan; past night cool.
5	30° 00	29° 94	79	82	—	
6	30° 00	29° 91	81	81	—	Very hot night.
7	29° 98	29° 90	79	81	—	Harmattan in morning; night cooler.
8	29° 93	29° 80	78	81	—	Pleasant day.
9	29° 95	29° 85	80	82	—	Warmer; not much breeze.
10	29° 94	29° 83	80	82	—	Strong sea breeze set in at 8 p.m.; temperature same as at noon.
11	29° 98	29° 87	78	82	—	Pleasant day; sea breeze.
12	30° 00	29° 91	78	81	—	Do. do.
13	29° 98	29° 90	78	83	—	Warmer; cool at night.
14	30° 02	29° 92	76	81	—	Strong sea breeze all night.
15	30° 00	29° 90	74	81	—	Very cool night; breeze all day.
16	30° 02	29° 92	73	77	—	Cool breeze all past night; dropped at 10 a.m. thermometer, 1 p.m., 79°.
17	29° 98	29° 89	74	79	—	Breeze still continues, and pleasant weather.
18	30° 00	29° 90	75	80	—	Do. do.
19	30° 00	29° 91	75	79	—	Do. do.
20	29° 96	29° 87	75	79	—	Do. do.
21	29° 96	29° 85	74	75	—	Thermometer, 73° at 8 a.m.

Date.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Remarks.
	10 a.m.	4 p.m.	7 a.m.	Noon.	
Nov.					
22	29° 85	29° 84	74	76	Less breeze with the full moon.
23	29° 84	29° 83	74	77	Warmer, but cool at night.
24	30° 03	29° 83	75	79	Calm, and hot in middle of day.
25	30° 03	29° 87	73	77	Breeze again, but light, cool night.
26	30° 05	29° 96	75	77	
27	30° 05	29° 95	73	75	Sea breeze sprang up at 9 a.m.
28	30° 03	29° 93	73	76	
29	30° 00	29° 91	73	75	Cloudy morning.
30	30° 01	29° 91	74	76	Less wind, and warmer; mean temperature, 7 a.m., 76°; noon, 29° 5°.
Dec.					
1	30° 00	29° 90	75	77	Do. do. do.
2	29° 98	29° 89	75	78	Do. do. do.
3	30° 00	29° 90	73	81	Strong Harmattan sprang up at 3 a.m.; wet bulb, 62°.
4	30° 00	29° 90	73	78	
5	30° 00	29° 92	73	80	
6	30° 05	29° 85	75	77	Heavy dew, and fog in morning; hot first part of night; thermometer, 75° 6 a.m.; sand flies.
7	30° 05	29° 83	74	75	Cloudy, with Harmattan up to noon.
8	30° 04	29° 84	73	75	
9	29° 98	29° 86	72	75	
10	30° 00	29° 90	72	75	Still night; sand flies.
11	30° 03	29° 92	74	77	Sand flies abundant; no breeze.
12	30° 00	29° 90	73	80	
13	30° 00	29° 91	74	79	Governor left Bathurst-Calabar. Warm day; no breeze.
14	30° 00	29° 92	74	77	8 a.m., sworn in as Administrator. Weather similar to yesterday.
15	30° 03	29° 90	72	77	Still calm, but air fairly cool.
16	30° 02	29° 91	73	78	Calm and warm.
17	30° 00	29° 90	74	80	Do. Went to Government House.
18	30° 02	29° 91	72	77	Cooler breeze at 2 p.m.
19	30° 04	29° 93	71	79	Harmattan.
20	30° 05	29° 95	71	76	Do. Cloudy and dull.
21	30° 05	29° 94	71	75	Do. do.
22	30° 05	29° 95	71	76	Do. do.
23	30° 04	29° 93	71	74	Do. do.
24	30° 05	—	71	72	Cloudy; not much breeze; inclined to rain. Went to Albreda.
25	—	—	—	—	
26	—	—	—	—	
27	—	—	—	—	Absent.
28	—	29° 95	—	—	Do.
29	30° 02	29° 94	72	76	Return to Bathurst at 12.30 previous day.
30	30° 03	29° 91	73	76	Harmattan in morning.
31	30° 02	29° 90	72	76	Do. do. Mean temperature, 7 a.m., 72° 2°; noon, 28° (27 days).

Ethnology, Distribution of Races, &c.

Some account of the native races connected with the Gambia will, I trust, be of use to those interested in the Settlement, more especially as the official records bearing on this subject are meagre and usually of an incidental character, such matters being only touched upon when they serve to elucidate other subjects connected with the general Government.

The principle tribes associated more or less economically with the Settlement are the following:—

1. Mandingoes.
2. Sereres.
3. Nominkas.
4. Jolas.
5. Jolofs.
6. Salum—Salum
7. Lowbeys.

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In addition to these the trading community come into contact with Foulahs and Turankas, or Toocalores in the upper river.

1. *Mandingoes*.—The head-quarters of this extensive and powerful race lie in the mountainous district, near the sources of the Niger and the Gambia, extending as far as Kong. From this region they overran the surrounding country westward to Bambouk, and still pushed on until the banks of the Gambia as far as the sea, more or less fell under their sway.

The history of their advent in the Gambia is thus described by F. Xavier Golberry, a French writer who visited this portion of Western Africa in the years 1785–6–7: “About the commencement of the tenth year of the Hegira, Amari Sonko, a celebrated Mandingo warrior descended from the interior of Africa, at the head of more than 20,000 armed men, and, followed by a great number of women and Marabouts, he ravaged all the northern coasts of the Gambia, arrived towards the mouth of that river, where he fought many battles with the King of Salum, and finally remained conqueror of the territories of Barra, of Kollar, and of Badibou.”

It is interesting to note that the present King of Barra, or Nuomi, is “Moranto Sonko,” and the Sumar, or Prime Minister, is “Barkari Sonko,” probably descendants of the Mandingo warrior noticed by Golberry. Barkari Sonko is an exceptionally intelligent, influential, and worthy African, and a staunch ally of the British Government; he is both feared and respected by the people of Nuomi, and much of the peace and absence of complication on the Ceded Mile are due to the exercise of his wise and vigorous influence. I regret to say that he is now an old man, and his loss will be much felt when he dies.

At the present moment the principal countries on the north bank of the river are occupied mostly by Mandingoes, and the dominant tribes in Combo, on the south bank, are also of the same race, though the heathen Jolas in the bordering Fogui country are able to hold their own against them. Nuomi (Ceded Mile), Iokardo, Kiang, Jarra, Badibou, n'Yarmina, Packow, Sandial and n'Yarnie, are all, more or less, peopled by Mandingoes, who practically control the trade of the lower river. Three fourths of the ground nuts hitherto cultivated have been grown by them; the export of beeswax seems to be dependent also upon the Mandingoes, who bring it down from the interior of the Jola country. They also bring cattle and hides into the market and cultivate cotton largely, which their women spin and weave into the pagans, or country cloths, which play so conspicuous a part in the trade of the river.

The Mandingo language is rich and musical, and susceptible, I understand, of more variety of expression than the Jolof tongue which next after the Mandingo is, perhaps, the most prevalent language. The latter adopt the decuple system of numeration,

whereas the former possesses only a quinquennial period. The following are the Mandingo numerals :—

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One	-	-	-	Killing.
Two	-	-	-	Foulah.
Three	-	-	-	Salua.
Four	-	-	-	Uawee
Five	-	-	-	Lullo.
Six	-	-	-	Warroo.
Seven	-	-	-	Warroo—Willa.
Eight	-	-	-	Sayee.
Nine	-	-	-	Canonto.
Ten	-	-	-	Tan.
Eleven	-	-	-	Tan-in, Killing, &c.

The Mandingoes, as a rule, are Mohammedans, though many are "Sonninkes;" and in all their faith is permeated more or less with fetichism. The term "Sonninke" is applied by Mohammedans to all people, irrespective of race, who drink spirit.

Physically, they are, in general, a spare, athletic race of medium height, often with aquiline features, but in contour always distinct from the typical negro. In colour they are not so dark as the Jolofs, but the hair is woolly. The laws in Mandingo towns are administered by "Alkalis," or "Sumas," both terms having the same signification. The only difference is that the former is a kind of prime minister in a Mohammedan town, while the latter holds a similar office in a Soninke town. Murder and adultery are punished by death. The sentence in the former case is carried out by killing in the same manner as the murder was committed; and in the latter the adulterer is usually killed with cutlasses. The adulteress suffers only whipping, and is cast out by her husband. Theft is punished by whipping, an instrument somewhat similar to a "cat" being used for the purpose. Slander and disrespect to parents, or the aged, are punished by fine, which goes to the alkali and head men of the town. Immorality as distinguished from adultery is almost unknown; but, if practised and discovered, would meet with the death penalty as in adultery.

The Mandingoes still keep up a connexion with their original country, and recognise a supreme authority in the ancient Mandingo kingdom, though this recognition is more sentimental than real, the distance being too great for any effective authority to be exercised. The present King resides at Sangara, the capital of the Tilibo country, situated almost immediately at the source of the Niger.

2. *Sereres*.—This race occupies the neighbourhood of Joal, Seine, and Baol to the north of the Gambia and outside British jurisdiction, though many of them are settled on the Ceded Mile. They are a distinct race with a language having no affinity either to the Mandingo or Jolof.

They are an independent and comparatively industrious people, cultivating largely both corn and rice; they also rear numerous

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cattle. As, however, their wants are extremely few, they are of no great economical use in the Settlement. They seldom buy cotton goods, and have no craving for luxuries of any description. Their wardrobes never consist of more than two pagas. During the dry season many Serere youths come to Bathurst to work as labourers for about three months, their ambition being satisfied when they have earned sufficient to buy a trade musket, a knife, a wooden box, and a few minor articles, such as iron bars, iron pots, raw cotton, &c. Others at times come in with small canoes, and cut firewood for the Bathurst market, and also do a little fishing.

In religion the Sereres are infidels, and, except in a few instances, have hitherto resisted all attempts to convert them to Islamism. They recognise a Supreme Being, but he is only invoked in case of hostile invasion, a fashion which has doubtless been borrowed from the Mohammedans. The King of Seine, who is the ruler of the Serere nation, keeps one Marabout attached to his person for this express purpose, but his services are never put into requisition on any other occasion.

Physically they are a fine, well-grown race, with not unpleasant features, their complexions, as a rule, being of a deep black.

The present King of Seine is Jal Gay, a monarch much addicted to strong liquors. He, however, exercises considerable power over his subjects. The King appoints a sort of governor named a "madungat" to represent him in subordinate districts, and the madungat has the power of appointing agents under himself who are styled "jarraf." Nothing of importance, however, can be done without the King's consent.

The Sereres, whilst in the Settlement, submit themselves readily to English law. In their own country the King administers the national substitute for justice. As with the Mandingoes, murder and adultery are punished with death; shooting or decapitation, according to the decree of the King, being the means adopted. Immorality is treated in a more lenient fashion, and resolves itself into a question of money. I am told, however, by persons who know the customs of both tribes well, that the Mandingoes and Sereres frequently condone the offence of adultery, if the male culprit is rich enough to satisfy the outraged honour of the husband; and, moreover, from the necessity of extreme caution, that the wives resort to various cunning devices in order to deceive their husbands. The virtue of these communities is, therefore, more apparent than real.

Each Serere man is permitted by custom to have 10 wives, but indulgence in a greater number is regarded as a pardonable folly. Theft is punished in a very drastic manner. The thief has the whole of his goods confiscated and handed over to the victim of the robbery.

As an illustration of the distinct character of the Serere language the following are the numerals employed by them :—

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One -	-	-	-	-	Leng.
Two -	-	-	-	-	Duck.
Three	-	-	-	-	Taduck.
Four	-	-	-	-	Nahack.
Five -	-	-	-	-	Bettack.
Six -	-	-	-	-	Betta-foleng.
Seven	-	-	-	-	Betta-duck.
Eight	-	-	-	-	Betta-taduck.
Nine	-	-	-	-	Betta Nahack.
Ten -	-	-	-	-	Harbo Hy.

It will be observed that the primitive quinquennial period is adopted by the Sereres, as is the case with the Jolofs.

In the event of a summons from the King the whole of the absent Sereres would be compelled to return to Seine.

3. *Nominkas*.—This race occupies the region known as the kingdom of Nuomi or Barra. I have been unable to ascertain the precise boundaries of the old Nuomi kingdom, but at present the Nominkas are spread over the various towns along the Ceded Mile a portion, however, residing outside the jurisdiction.

They appear to be divided into two sections, named respectively the Nomibartokas (meaning those living at the entrance of the river), and the Nomibantokas (meaning those living more within the river). The former occupy the region between Jonwar and Jinneck, and the latter reside between the towns of Essow and Jooroonko.

The Nominkas are all Mandingoes; but the Nomibartokas live so near to the Sereres that they speak this language in addition to their own.

Jonwar, mentioned above, forms one of a group of islets adjacent to the mouth of the Saloum river to the north of the Gambia. The inhabitants of these islets originally were under the control of the King of Nuomi; but in the years 1863-64, owing to oppression on the part of the ruling power, they revolted, and were afterwards joined by the Marabouts in Nomibanto, who saw an opportunity of freeing themselves from the King's laws. Colonel D'Arcy, the then administrator, remonstrated with the people on the Ceded Mile for interfering in the matter, but unavailingly; and he was ultimately compelled to use force. Hence the Tubarbeco-long Expedition of 1866. Since then the Nomibartokas have refused further tribute to the King and Princes of Nuomi.

The Nominkas communicate with Bathurst by means of large canoes, which some of them are very clever at making. These canoes will sometimes carry as much as three tons of ground nuts, of which they cultivate large quantities. Since the French have established themselves at Foundiouné and elsewhere in that neighbourhood most of this produce is diverted from Bathurst. The market is of course nearer for the more northern portion of the

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Nominkas, but in addition higher prices were at one time offered by the French than could be procured at Bathurst.

The Nominkas also bring salt and dried fish to Bathurst, a portion of which they sell and the rest is taken up the river to exchange for corn, &c.

In religion most of the Nominkas are now Mohammedans, though originally they were Soninkees. Their laws are similar to those of the Mandingoes, from whom they sprang. Those on the Ceded Mile are, of course, amenable to English laws, and constables have been stationed at most of the towns to preserve order, and to make periodical reports to Bathurst upon the state of the country.

4. *Jolas*.—The history of this primitive and extraordinary race is involved in much obscurity. No idea appears to exist amongst themselves in regard to their origin, and even tradition is silent, except as to recent events, in the chronicles of their country.

So far as it is possible to learn from the people themselves, the Jolas, or Fellups, have always occupied, more or less, the region they now inhabit, viz., the country comprised between the southern limit of foreign Combo and the north bank of the river Casamance, running in a north-easterly direction towards the south bank of the Gambia as far as the mouth of Vintang Creek, a large tributary of the latter river. The so-called "Fogni" country is at present divided by the Jolas into districts as follows, all comprised within the limits of lower or foreign Combo:—Fellup, Siati, Mungoon, Cabillie, Binkin, and Carroon. There are also another set called the Chabon Jolas who live more in the immediate neighbourhood of the Casamance, though they all speak the same language.

This people up to the present appear to have resisted even an imperfect approach to civilization. Although an industrious race, their ambition has been satisfied by the attainment of the barest necessities of life. Little beyond rice is grown in the Jola country, and this, with fish caught in the creeks, forms the staple food of the people. Their neighbours, and enemies, the Mandingoes, oblige them to procure powder and guns for self-defence; but beyond these articles the Jolas buy or exchange but few of the marketable commodities of Bathurst. It is doubtful whether they would trouble themselves to come into British jurisdiction at all were it not for the fact that they have learnt by experience that it is a refuge for the oppressed, in consequence of which many of them have settled in British Combo, and come from thence to Bathurst to obtain work as labourers.

Physically they are not an attractive looking race; and both sexes wear little or no clothing. In their own country there is practically no Government and no law; every man does as he chooses, and the most successful thief is considered the greatest man. There is no recognized punishment for murder, or any other crime. Individual settlement is the only remedy, and the fittest survives.

Unlike the rule amongst most African races, there is absolutely no formality in regard to marriage, or what passes for marriage, amongst them. Natural selection is observed on both sides, and the pair, after having ascertained a reciprocity of sentiment, at once cohabit. No presents are made by the bridegroom, and the consent of parents is entirely ignored. They do not intermarry with any other race.

Their language is quite distinct from that of any other contiguous people, and I understand that it is not easily acquired. It appears to be poor in vocabulary, as might be expected in the case of a race with so few wants. The Jolas do not count beyond 10, and distinct terms are used only up to five, as in all the tribes noticed except the Mandingoes. I have had some difficulty in ascertaining the numerals, each Jola whom I have questioned having given me different information; but the following appear to be generally recognised and understood:—

One	-	-	Eanor.
Two	-	-	Coo-cooba, or Soo-Cooba.
Three	-	-	Hoo hahjee, or See hahjee.
Four	-	-	Coo bakeer, or See bakeer.
Five	-	-	Foutoe.
Six	-	-	Fou-toe d'eanor.
Seven	-	-	Fou-toe coo-cooba.
Eight	-	-	Fou-tou-hoo hahjee.
Nine	-	-	Fou toe coo-bakeer.
Ten	-	-	Koo-n'Yen.

Beyond these figures counting becomes pantomimic, the people using both hands and feet to represent higher numbers. Pieces of stick are also sometimes employed for the same purpose.

It is evident from these facts that the Jolas, whether from persecution, or from some other cause, have always been an isolated race, and have shunned contact with their neighbours. They are, however, a brave people and have proved themselves capable of holding their own against the warlike Mandingoes, who are constantly attacking them—professedly to bring them over to Islamism, but in reality to capture them as slaves. The Jola country is interesting to this Government as being the nearest habitat of the rubber trees; and, if the country were more settled doubtless a far larger quantity of this valuable commodity would find its way to Bathurst.

5. *Jolofs*.—Although “Jolof” is a word very frequently used in Bathurst, and most of the native inhabitants speak that language, yet, as a matter of fact, very few of the genuine race are to be found in it. The habitat of the Jolofs is in the adjoining French Colony of Senegal, and comprises Jolof, Cayor Baol, and Saloum. Formerly the Jolof nation was united under one Emperor or King, who was styled “Burb i Jolof;” but dissensions arose ending in separation, each district choosing a King of its own. The Jolofs proper are stated to be a handsome race; and,

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as a rule, those of both sexes with whom I have come into contact have been tall and well-formed, with a jetty blackness of complexion. They are proud, and exceedingly vain, claiming for themselves a very ancient descent. The women are inordinately fond of gay apparel and personal adornment of every description. They frequently pierce the ear along the entire edge with a series of holes, so that this feature may be as far as possible loaded with ornamentation. The wool is pulled out to its extreme length, and plaited into thin strips which hang from the head, giving a peculiar character to these natives. The natural plaits are supplemental with artificial ones made of a native dyed fibre, and the whole is smeared with a rancid grease which emits a very offensive odour. Of their moral qualifications report speaks very unfavourably, mendacity, deceit, and licentiousness being prominent characteristics of this people. In religion they are fervent Mohammedans; they rarely intermarry with any other race, and are extremely sensitive to any mishap in this direction. They contribute little, except their language, to the economical needs of the Settlement, our neighbours the French extracting whatever profit there is to be gained from contact with them.

Any mention of this race, apart from its ethnological interest, would be superfluous in the Gambia Blue Book were it not for the existence of the language in certain districts, and for the fact that a portion, at least, of the adjacent country of Baddiboo, which has played an important part in Gambia affairs, contains numerous representatives of this race. This region borders on Saloum, which is a portion of Jolof proper.

A short history of Baddiboo (or Baddibou) will not be out of place here. It has been previously remarked that the Mandingoes conquered and established themselves in this country at an early stage in the history of the people. They remained in possession until about the year 1860, when a certain Hamah Bah (commonly called Mabah), who had been formerly a native trader, by degrees collected together a heterogeneous army and drove the Mandingoes from Baddiboo, extending his conquest into Saloum, and finally taking possession of the whole country and establishing himself as its chief. In October 1864 the French entered into a treaty with Mabah, whereby he was recognised as chief of Baddiboo and Saloum "qu'il gouvernera sous le nom d'Almamy." By this treaty the frontiers of Jolof, Baol, and Seine remained as before; but subsequently Mabah's ambition prompted him to attack the Serere King of Seine, and during the war in 1867 he was killed.

On the death of Mabah his nephew, Mahmoud ²Dery Bah, succeeded to the throne, according to one story, merely as Regent for Mabah's young son, Saide Mattie, but another section professed to regard the settlement as a final one. Out of this question have arisen the late complications which have seriously affected and still prejudicially influence, the trade and prosperity of an important part of the river.

Mahmoud ^aDery Bah from the first possessed none of the masterful character and ability of Mabah, and it is not surprising that before long troubles arose, which, unhappily, in 1877 culminated in civil war. The primary trouble arose from a revolt of one of Mabah's generals, Beram Ceasay; and Baddiboo soon divided into two sections, one fighting against the other. This resulted after a long struggle in the partition of the kingdom, Mahmoud ^aDery Bah retaining the portion of the country adjacent to Suwara Cunda Creek with ^aYoro for his capital and Beram Ceasay securing the more eastern portion with his capital at ^aDimba. Mahmoud ^aDery Bah, however, was recognised both by the Government and by Beram Ceasay as Chief of Baddiboo, and continued to receive the stipend granted to him for protecting traders in the river.

Peace, unhappily was of very short duration. In 1884 Saide Mattie, who had then arrived at manhood, got together a party and claimed the throne by right of inheritance from his father Mabah. This right Mahmoud ^aDery Bah denied, and more fighting ensued. Beram Ceasay took the side of his chief, but Saide Mattie, up to the present, has succeeded in wresting every town from his uncle, with the exception of ^aYoro, which is impregnable, from a native point of view. Unhappily this question is still pending (October 1886), and it is feared that hostilities will recommence as soon as the dry season sets in, and loot for marauding parties in the shape of the various crops in the ground exists for those who are strong enough to help themselves.

The Jolof language is expressive though not rich in vocabulary, and, I understand, depends much upon accentuation for its correct rendering and apprehension. The numerals are as follows:—

One	-	-	-	Bew-na.
Two	-	-	-	Yar.
Three	-	-	-	Nee-ec-ta.
Four	-	-	-	Nee-a-vent.
Five	-	-	-	Joorome.
Six	-	-	-	Joorome-beuna.
Seven	-	-	-	Joorome ^a Yar.
Eight	-	-	-	Joorome Nee-et-ta.
Nine	-	-	-	Joorome Ne-a-vent.
Ten	-	-	-	Fooka.

It will be readily understood from the foregoing that counting in Jolof gets to be a very complicated process after a time, and that mathematics has yet to become an exact science amongst this people. Golberry, in the work previously alluded to, very pertinently comments upon the curious fact that in spite of the contiguity of the Jolofs to the Moors, who adopt the Arabic system of numeration, the former should have persistently adhered to the primitive method of reckoning on one hand only instead of on both. It is a curious and perplexing circumstance that the Mandingoes, who are an inland people, and probably came into

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contact with more enlightened races at a later period than the tribes nearer the coast, should be in advance of all the other races in this portion of Africa in their system of counting. The question whether their method originated with the language, or has been acquired at a later period of their history, must be left to more experienced philologists than myself. The Mandingoes, however, have always been great traders, and it is possible that their instincts taught them at an early stage the advantages of a system based on ten fingers instead of five.

6. *Salum-Salums*.—This race requires only a brief notice. They are neighbours of the Sereres, and, through intermarriage, their language is a mixture of Jolof and Serere.

In religion they are partly Marabouts and partly Soninkees. The former frequently take wives from the latter, but no Marabout would give his daughter to a Soninkee unless to a King or a Prince, and that reluctantly.

They are a fairly industrious race, but this Settlement gains little by their exertions. All ground nuts cultivated naturally go to the French as being the nearest market. A few cattle and hides are occasionally brought to Bathurst to exchange for English goods.

7. *The Lowbeys*.—This race may be described as the gipsies of North-West Africa. It is almost impossible to get any certain information in regard to their history. They wander about from place to place, and none whom I have questioned have been able to tell me the part of Africa from whence they originally came. I am informed (not by a Lowbey) that there is a tradition which assigns to them the land of Midian as their original country, and that they were cursed by Jethro for stealing cattle, and doomed to a wandering life. I am inclined, however, to regard this story as a modern invention, seeing that I have not yet discovered a Lowbey who ever heard of Jethro, of Moses, or of the land of Midian.

They are a decidedly handsome race, bearing a stronger resemblance to the Foulahs than to any other people, though, as a rule, darker in colour. In all probability they were descended from the Foulahs, but, if so, it is curious that they should have completely changed their mode of life, the Foulahs being a pastoral and agricultural people, while the Lowbeys almost exclusively confine themselves to the making of the various wooden utensils in use by natives generally. They settle temporarily with any tribe, but never intermarry with another race, thus preserving the type of feature which obviously separates them from their human surroundings.

In religion most of them are pagans, though a few profess the Mohammedan faith. They have no laws of their own, but are guided by those of the people amongst whom they are for the time being located. In case of war happening they very sensibly remove at once into a district where there is peace. Their language appears to be allied to the Foulah tongue, but they usually speak the language of the tribe with whom they are staying.

They are of but little economical use in the Settlement, as their wants are few, and beyond the implements which they require for their avocation they purchase little or nothing from Bathurst.

The Foulahs and Toocalores, to whom allusion has been made, are practically the same race. Little need be said of them, as the former are a well-known African race, and many travellers have noted their unusual lightness of complexion. Dr. Gouldsbury in his report on the Upper Gambia Expedition gives a concise history of this people.* Their capital is Timbo, in the Futa Jallon country. The town is situated in Lat. 10° 38' N. and long. 11° 10' W.

The Toocalores reside principally in the Futa Toro country in Senegal; but from having intermixed with other races they are darker in colour. They are a warlike people, and at times are troublesome to our neighbours the French.

General Remarks.

The year 1885 cannot be termed a prosperous one. Since 1882 the staple export (ground nuts) has been steadily declining, the figures being as follows:—

					Tons.
1882	-	-	-	-	25,524
1883	-	-	-	-	23,094
1884	-	-	-	-	18,404
1885	-	-	-	-	12,354

The large deficiency in this year's crop has of course very sensibly affected the general revenue. The short crop is attributable partly to disturbances in the river and partly to the abnormally low rainfall, though the nuts which did come to hand were unusually fine. Unhappily, the price in the European market was so low that, in spite of the quality, it has been stated, and I believe with truth, that all the mercantile houses in Bathurst suffered from their connexion with this produce.

It is greatly to be feared that ground nuts can no longer be cultivated with profit on either side. The natives have been accustomed to receive 2s. for a so-called bushel, which is, in fact, of variable capacity, and is a matter of yearly arrangement between the interested parties. It has recently, however, been impossible for the merchants to buy at the old prices, and it has been found very difficult to impress the native mind with the reality of fluctuations in the European market to their disadvantage.

Gambia, I fear, is in a transition stage; and in the event of a total collapse of the ground nut industry, most of the larger mercantile houses would, there is little doubt, be compelled to withdraw from the Settlement. The French especially would suffer, as their home crushing mills would be idle, in addition to their restricted trade at the Bathurst agencies.

Industries like that on which the Gambia has been relying for so long are not built up in a day, and it is not easy to find a substitute for its vanishing staple, more especially when dealing

* No. 17 in [C.—3065] August 1881,

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with a naturally indolent and procrastinating race. The native indigo, now cultivated in small quantities for the dyeing of native pagns, promises well, and may possibly, when the proper mode of preparation becomes known, be worth attention.

That part of the Fogni country which the Jolas are anxious to hand over to the British Government produces india rubber, but, owing to the hostility of Fodey Selah in foreign Combo, and the difficulty of dealing with the Jolas by the class of people who go to procure the rubber, hindrances have arisen in the development of this useful product. In 1884 257,285 lbs. were exported from the Settlement, while in 1885 only 42,179 lbs. left the Gambia. The local market, however, in the former year, was forced, and in certain quarters prices were given for the article which must have entailed loss in the European market.

The Administrator (now administering the Government in Chief at Sierra Leone), has taken some pains with a view to procure vanilla plants for experimental purposes, which, it is thought, may thrive in the Settlement. These plants are shortly expected, and will be a valuable addition to Gambia products should they be successfully established.

I feel convinced that tobacco would be well worth systematic culture in the Settlement. The plant certainly shows a very luxuriant growth, even in the wild state in which it is found in various places. Experiments have, moreover, been tried with the Havannah and Maryland varieties with marked success, so far as healthy and vigorous growth are concerned. The curing requires some nicety of manipulation, but this, of course, could easily be acquired. If there were any difficulty in the process, it would arise from the exceeding dryness of the Harmattan wind, which may possibly desiccate the leaf too rapidly for complete success in the earlier stages. This wind blows just at the period when the crop would be at maturity.

So far as I can learn, no real effort has ever been made to introduce scientific agriculture into the Settlement. Capitalists have probably hesitated to embark their money in such a speculation, first, because ground nuts have hitherto been a profitable investment, and secondly, no doubt, because the labour question would form a serious difficulty. It would be, I apprehend, almost impossible to procure the continuous labour so essential to success in agricultural operations. In regard to the ground nut question, "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" has been the fatal maxim which bids fair to wreck the little Settlement. The extinction of this industry has often been foretold; but it never was so near realisation as at present, and it would be worse than useless to shut our eyes to the fact.

There is, it is true, a forlorn hope that the price may again become remunerative, but with the many oil-producing substances now in the market, and the formidable rivalry of the Indian and South American benniseed, it would be rash to build on such a contingency. Under any circumstances it is certain that the crop

now in the ground, which will be brought to the market in the season of 1887, will be hardly worth consideration as a revenue-producing agency.

It is pleasant to be able to record that the year 1885 was not marked by the advent of any epidemic disease, and that the Settlement was fairly healthy. Increased activity in sanitary measures has had its effect in lessening the danger from the fevers which are always more or less prevalent in the unhealthy season.

The absence of anything in the shape of a public library or reading room is much felt. It may be said that for the average European there is absolutely no recreation. Mr. Sunter's remarks have been quoted elsewhere as to the moral condition of the Settlement. There is no doubt much truth in them, and a part of the odium of such a state of things must necessarily attach to the European residents, who, it must be confessed, do not always set a good example to their less enlightened brethren. When, however, the absence of anything in the shape of English social life is taken into consideration, it is hardly to be wondered at that distraction is oftentimes sought in intemperance, or in irregular connexions with native women, or both. To most men life on the West Coast of Africa is an enervating, demoralising existence, whose monotony is broken only by periodical fits of sickness; and, unless refuge is sought in occupations which tend to elevate and divert the mind, both mental and physical, deterioration will surely follow. It is, therefore, in my opinion of vital importance to the general welfare that the Government, even at some sacrifice, should initiate the foundation of such an institution as I have named. A suitable building might be rented in the first instance with no great outlay, and a yearly sum might be devoted to the purchase of books, periodicals, &c. An institution of this nature would no doubt in time become at any rate partially self-supporting from the subscriptions which might appropriately be asked from residents, and I am quite sure that the principal mercantile houses would liberally support such a scheme.

The able and instructive Blue Book Report for 1884, prepared by Administrator Moloney (now Administrator of Lagos) has rendered my task an easy one, as it is only necessary for me to refer to that work, in case information should be needed on any points not touched upon in this Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

G. T. CARTER,
Acting Administrator,

His Excellency
The Administrator in Chief,
Sierra Leone.

GOLD COAST.GOLD COAST.

No. 5.

Governor W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the Right
Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle,
MY LORD, Accra, August 9, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a Sanitary Report on the station of Accra for the year ending 31st December 1885, prepared by the Chief Medical Officer of the Colony; together with condensed reports which he has made from others sent to him by the Assistant Colonial Surgeons at the outstations of Quittah, Cape Coast, Elmina, and Lagos, and a report in full from Dr. Rowland, the Assistant Surgeon and District Commissioner of Axim.

Accra.—Sanitary Report upon Water Supply.

2. Dr. McCarthy lays great stress upon this point, and very properly so; but it will take some years to supply such a quantity of storage for water as will give 14,600,000 gallons of that fluid, so as to furnish two gallons daily for the use of 20,000 people in Accra and Christiansborg. But the question of finding accommodation for that quantity of water is closely allied with being able to get the water, and if the experience of 1885 and 1886 so far is to be repeated, the rainfall will be inadequate to supply our wants; and, looking beyond obtaining water in this way, I intend, as soon as the staff of the Public Works Department will admit of a competent officer being spared for the purpose, to send him to search towards the upper water of the Secoom River, and at and around Aburi, and elsewhere on the line, so as to ascertain whether water can be obtained from any of those localities in sufficient and unfailing abundance to be brought in by iron pipeage to supply the wants of Accra and Christiansborg.

3. In Despatch of the 15th of May I mentioned the action taken in building additional tanks for the storage of 265,000 gallons of rain water, and as to making a reservoir to contain 2,626,425 gallons, the last being specially intended for the benefit of the people. This is the best reply that I can give to the Chief Medical Officer's suggestion upon the question of supplying water. I have done all that was possible so far as to providing for the storage of rain water, and I hope that these

efforts may be rewarded by a rainfall sufficient to fill the tanks and reservoir before the season for expecting rain passes away for this year. GOLD COAST.

4. With regard to the cactus forest mentioned by Dr. McCarthy, the Surveyor General informed me, on the 4th instant, that "the total area cleared of cactus is 5,000 square yards. There still remain to be cleared 6,739 square yards. A strong gang of prisoners, if they worked well, should clear this in a month.' The prisoners have been assisting in conveying portions of the building materials intended for the new secretariat to New Site, and have been otherwise employed, but I have given directions that a gang is to be steadily engaged upon the work until the cactus has been destroyed. As the plant is cut away it is burnt and buried.

Bathing Ponds at Accra.

5. When the reservoir is completed I will see what can be done about these. The staff of the Public Works Department at Accra is limited, and it would be unwise to take in hand more work than there is a reasonable prospect of carrying out, under reponsible supervision, within a year.

Pigs in the Town.

6. Until the Surveyor General sees his way to enclose spaces behind the town to which the people can be required to send these animals the evil complained of must be endured. I have urged the matter upon the attention of the Surveyor General and he will look to it, but it is not so easy to carry out public improvements. Various troublesome and awkward points, legal and otherwise, have to be considered before action can be taken, and experience shows as much here as elsewhere that it is safest and wisest to make haste slowly.

Domiciliary Sepulture.

7. As soon as the necessary land has been secured and enclosed, steps will be taken to prevent the dead being buried as at present.

Public Latrines.

8. I have already stated, in Despatch of the 12th June 1886, paragraph 3, that one of these had been erected on the beach near the landing place at Accra. The masonry is strong and substantial. It was completed on the 15th July and is in use. More of the same description will be built if that referred to is found to answer. The Surveyor General is taking the steps necessary for establishing a dozen latrines behind the town, and these will be proceeded with as promptly as practicable.

GOLD COAST.

Quittah Sanitary Report.

9. Dr. Waldron advocates enforced registration of births and deaths, but I do not consider it is practicable at present. The information which would be afforded by a system of reliable registration would be valuable, no doubt, but the matter must lie over until the Colony is more advanced in intelligence upon this and other questions of equal, if not greater, importance and value.

10. It would be more convenient in every way if better hospital accommodation than at present exists at Quittah was provided there. But as the matter is not pressing, and the Public Works Department has as much on hand to do as it can properly attend to, the building of a hospital hut at Quittah must stand over until it can be properly looked after.

11. It is stated that the supply of water contained in the fort tank is found to be inadequate for all purposes, but no complaint of the kind has been made, so far as I am aware, by the District Commissioner of Quittah. However, I will make inquiry into the matter and if additional storage for water is necessary it will be attended to as soon as practicable.

Cape Coast Sanitary Report.

12. Judging from the tone and way in which the Chief Medical Officer deals with the report of Assistant Surgeon Evles, it is evident that he differs widely in opinion from that officer. As regards the building now in use at Cape Coast as a Colonial hospital, there is no doubt that it is by no means so suitable for the purpose as the Government House there, and I have arranged to-day with the Chief Medical Officer to go to Cape Coast as soon as he can conveniently do so, and make the necessary transfer of patients and stores. It would have been so utilized long ago, but a petition was sent in by the merchants praying that a hospital should not be placed in their midst. I understand this was the work of one individual, but the petition was respectably signed and the intended action of the Government appears to have been stayed in consequence. Another petition was sent in last year, signed by nearly all of the persons who put their names to the first petition asking that the Government House should be used as the Colonial Hospital. This indicates to some extent the value of petitions got up in this Colony.

13. The question of latrines for Cape Coast will be dealt with as soon as the Public Works Department can attend to it.

Elmina Sanitary Report.

14. The only point of importance in this report is that relating to *latrines*, which will be dealt with as soon as practicable. The scavenging of Elmina is fairly attended to.

Azim Sanitary Report.

GOLD COAST.

15. I transmit herewith a copy of the Chief Medical Officer's letter accompanying this report, which he preferred not to condense. It deals on various matters, in regard to which I do not think it necessary to make any remarks. *Latrines at Azim* will not be lost sight of when the Public Works Department can attend to them.

Sanitary Report, Lagos.

16. In existing circumstances I refrain from making any observations on this paper, but Dr. McCarthy's remarks in it upon the water supply are interesting and worth bearing in mind.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

SANITARY REPORT on the STATION of ACCRA for the Year ending
31st December 1885.

SIR,

IN presenting my Report on the sanitary condition and requirements of Accra and Christiansborg for the year 1885 I have the honour to state, for the Governor's information, that, having dealt fully in my Report of 1884 with the questions relating to the public water supply, or, more correctly, the absence of it, and the necessity which exists for the erection of public latrines at the *back* of the town as well as on the sea beach, I feel therefore I have no need in this Report to revert to these topics.

I must be permitted, however, to correct a misapprehension which the careless reading of my last Report has given rise to. I say therein that the natives of Calcutta receive 15 gallons of water per head per diem, but in quoting that fact I am not to be understood to recommend the Government to give the public of this district a similar supply; although, large as it may seem, our smallest annual rainfall would give the people ten times the amount had they reservoirs of sufficient capacity to hold it. Give, however, the public the very limited quantity of, say, two gallons per head per diem, and for a population of 20,000, that would amount to 14,600,000 gallons.

Were I known to recommend a less quantity than this my advice would be exposed to the just ridicule of all sanitarians.

I cannot help remarking, and no one can deny, that our system here is an utterly selfish one with regard to the water supply; for

GOLD COAST. whilst the official public are, and, as a rule, always have been, well supplied with pure water *for all purposes*, the wants of the general public in that respect have been comparatively ignored. Is this just, is this fair? Certainly not, and therefore I need discuss the matter no further, but leave it in the Governor's hands to deal with. As constituted sanitary officer of this Colony, however, and knowing as I do the evil effects in bodily health which accrue to the natives from drinking the foul ditch and brackish water which they do, I earnestly appeal to the Governor's sense of justice and humanity to deal promptly and in a liberal manner with this important question. "An abundant supply of good water," Dr. Parkes says, "is the first sanitary necessity," and I take permission to add that he who gives it, will deserve and will receive the lasting gratitude of the people over whom he is set to govern.

The Cactus Forest at the West of the Town.

In the Report lately delivered by myself and the Acting Surveyor General on the subject of officials' quarters at Accra we fully dealt with this gigantic nuisance; so fully, indeed, that recapitulation on the subject is needless, save to remark that the sooner it is eradicated the sooner will the health of Accra improve.

Bathing Ponds in Accra.

These dirty pools are both dangerous to life and health, for hardly a year passes that some one is not drowned in one of them. That bathing in them must give rise to disease of various kinds is a fact which will be patent to anyone who will take the trouble to visit them and examine the water, which is of a vivid green, turbid, and otherwise filthy. But what are the unfortunate people to do? For the want of public latrines they are compelled to take advantage of the shelter of every bush and old ruin they find at hand; so, for the want of a moderate water supply, the poor creatures are forced to wash their bodies in these stagnant ponds. If I be asked how is this to be remedied, I can only reply, "Give the people a " water supply adequate to their wants, that is, two gallons per " head per diem, and fill up these ponds." If you hesitate to construct reservoirs sufficiently large to hold the volume of water (14,600,000 gallons) which this moderate allowance represents, then you must leave these ponds untouched, otherwise the poor wretches will naturally complain of a deprivation the rationale of which they will, under the circumstances not be able to comprehend.

Pigs at large in the Town.

This is another time-worn subject on which the Government have actually taken the trouble to legislate (*vide* "Swine Ordinance"). Practically, however, this Ordinance was strangled in its

birth, for it was put in abeyance soon after its enactment for fear of wounding the tender susceptibilities of His Majesty King Tackey. "If by the 15th of February," says the late Governor Young in his official communication to the above potentate, "any pigs be found at liberty in the town, I shall have them slaughtered." The 15th came, and the 15th went, Tackey smiled, and the pigs roamed wherever their fancy led them, through town and suburb, house and compound, adding the insanitary evidence of their presence to the already tainted atmosphere of the town.

Domiciliary Sepulture.

The old and pernicious practice of burying the dead in the midst of towns is now condemned all the world over as insanitary, for it has been proved by chemical analysis that morbid exhalations are constantly given off from the surface of graveyards. Hence it is that in all large towns in Europe, and especially in England, well-kept cemeteries are established in suitable positions in or outside their suburbs.

In Accra, however, where the native hovels are allowed to be built in such close proximity that a wheelbarrow could hardly pass through some of the narrow, foul-smelling alleys intersecting them, the disgusting custom of domiciliary sepulture is still carried on, and as no grass nor other herb can be grown over such graves it is easy to comprehend how tainted the atmosphere must be in the neighbourhood of such centres of putrid fermentation. It is, I am convinced, the cause of much of the sickness which prevails amongst Europeans who have to reside permanently in the town. In the absence of data on the vital statistics of the native population, for they are utterly impossible to obtain, we are unable to gauge the effects of this pernicious custom on their health. But it can easily be understood. Just fancy for one moment sitting down to one's meals every day as these people do over a spot where a corpse, perhaps more, lies rotting six feet below, and then multiply such instances by the hundred and you will very easily comprehend the evil effects which the deadly emanations arising from such a mass of decomposing animal matter must exert in places where fresh air has little or no access, where vegetation is absent, and where no effectual precautions are taken to prevent the ascent of poisonous gases from the graves below. A high American sanitary authority says, "The great difference of one country from another, in point of salubrity, consists in the greater or less proportion of soil which produces noxious effluvia." And from this very practice alone I should say that a far greater volume of poisonous gases emanates from the native hovels of Accra than would be found to arise from many a native town ten times its size where this abominable custom does not prevail.

There is a remedy for this, and that is to provide the people with a walled in cemetery for their own special use, then an Ordinance

GOLD COAST. — against domiciliary sepulture could be put into force; but until the people are given a decent burial ground of their own it would be useless making any effort to carry the provisions of such an Ordinance into effect; as useless, indeed, as it would be to try and stop them latrining around and about the town while they are unprovided with a sufficient number of public latrines.

Apropos of public latrines, there is one now, I find, in course of erection on the beach, and, judging from the solidity of its foundation and walls, there is every reason to believe that it will defy the action of the surf. Long as the Settlement has been under our jurisdiction, and frequently as the great need for the erection of public latrines on the beach and inland has been urged on the Government, this is the first really practical attempt that has been made to supply the want. It is a step in the right direction, and, I feel convinced, an earnest of what we may expect from his Excellency Governor Griffith in the way of carrying out sanitary measures throughout the Colony.

Special Work lately done by Scavengers.

Owing to the foul smell which the habit of latrining on the beach creates, I have directed a gang of sanitary labourers to pass along it every day and cover in the deposits of ordure found there, and I am told that this measure has had more or less a salutary effect in protecting the air passing inland from the contaminating influence of the disgusting odour arising from the large amount of human faecal matter deposited on the beach daily.

The other work done by the scavengers may be tabulated as follows:—

1. Clearing dustbins.
2. Sweeping public streets.
3. Clearing high weeds at back of town.
4. Raking and clearing refuse heaps at back of town.
5. Keeping public tank.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. D. McCARTHY,
Chief Medical Officer.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.
Christiansborg.

Death Rate and Invaliding amongst European Officials in 1885. GOLD COAST.

Station.	Name.	Died.	Disease.	Remarks.
Accra -	Stephen Sheldon -	31st Jan. 1885 -	Apoplexy.	
" -	J. E. Oakes -	6th Feb. 1885 -	Dysentery.	
" -	Chas. Smart -	5th March 1885 -	Bright's disease.	
" -	Governor W. A. G. Young.	24th April 1885 -	Remittent fever.	

(continued.)

Station.	Name.	Invalided.	Disease.	Remarks.
Accra -	J. J. P. Moran -	16th April 1885 -	Angina pectoris	Invalided to Europe.
" -	W. Grey Wilson -	4th May 1885 -	Heart disease.	" "
Quittah -	R. H. B. Campbell.	February 1885 -	Gunshot wound	" "
Cape Coast -	A. W. Forbes -	July 1885 -	Remittent fever	" "
Elmina -	J. Ellis -	November 1885 -	Dysentery -	" "
" -	G. Brennan -	June 1885 -	Remittent fever	Sick to Sierra Leone.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

QUITTAH.

In Dr. Waldron's Sanitary Report for Quittah he complains of the absence of what we shall never be able to obtain on this coast, viz., reliable factors for the preparation of statistics showing the mortality amongst the natives. The Registrar of Births and Deaths at Lagos pretends to supply such data, but I analysed his figures for two years, and found them utterly incorrect, and therefore, of course, dangerously misleading. Dr. Waldron advocates enforced registration. It would not succeed, and for this reason, that there is nothing in the world natives abhor, deprecate, and actually resist so much as official inquiry into the *arcana sacra* of their domestic life.

(2.) Dr. Waldron regrets there is not a hospital established at Quittah. The Medical Officer on this station, he says, is sometimes called on to perform his duties in the face of the most serious difficulties, as was instanced in the event of the 17th of January 1885 when an officer and several men were severely wounded. I have very great respect for any opinion Dr. Waldron expresses on any professional subject, because I know that his suggestions are never hurriedly formed, and I therefore strongly support his recommendation for a hospital hut to be erected on a suitable site

GOLD COAST. — near the fort at Quittah ; one the size of that which is now used as a Court House, Customs Department, and surgery, would answer the purpose admirably. The only accommodation for the Medical Department at Quittah now is a closet 12 feet \times 9 feet portioned off the Court House, hence patients have to wait in the court room, and are liable to ejection therefrom when the court sits.

(3.) The number of cases treated at the surgery during the year was 1,529 ; of these the pauper or out-door patients numbered 546. Out of this large number only six deaths are recorded, and 10 per 1,000 of the whole population. This surely must be merely approximative, as it is literally impossible to ascertain the true death rate of a people who practise secret domiciliary sepulture, as all the tribes on the coast do. In the other villages of the district Dr. Waldron was informed that the mortality ranged from 30–35 per 1,000. That is more like the figure he would have found at Quittah had he the means of ascertaining correct data.

(4.) The cause of much of the sickness which came under his notice was due to an impure source of water supply, hence dysentery, diarrhoea, boils, and parasitic diseases prevailed amongst the natives. Europeans suffered particularly from malarial fevers of various types of severity. Grave cases of intermittent and remittent fevers, placing patients' lives in extreme peril, came under his care, the symptoms of which were uncontrollable vomiting of dark green matter mixed with blood, rapid discoloration of skin, and dark coloured urine, which was temporarily albuminous ; in one case there was marked intestinal hæmorrhage.

(5.) Out of 16 Europeans at Quittah, and in spite of there having been so much sickness amongst them, not a single fatal case occurred here. Dr. Waldron says this is a fact worthy of record of a district so notoriously unhealthy as Quittah. I make the record, however, in his own interest, as I well know the ability, kindly sympathy, and thoughtful care which he always devotes to his patients.

(6.) The supply of water contained in the fort tank is found to be inadequate for all purposes ; double the quantity would be required and, of course, could be stored, if another tank were supplied. There is only one well in the town whose water when boiled and filtered is used by Europeans when their stock of rain water is exhausted ; the water of all the other wells in town and district "is highly impure," although used by the natives. But it is really wonderful what filth natives will drink with impunity. Danoe Camp, however, is supplied with an abundance of good water from an underground tank.

(7.) Quittah district has not suffered like that of Accra from prolonged drought this year.

(8.) Dr. Waldron states that during the rainy season the noisome gases which arise from the earth can in their character be only compared to the "foulest bilge water." This odour, he says, must be experienced to realise the danger to health which a

residence in this town entails. It would be mitigated by adopting means to have the lagoon permanently supplied with water. GOLD COAST.

(9.) By the steady enforcement of the "Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance" much good work has been accomplished in this town. Dr. Waldron has taken much pains in instructing the inhabitants of outlying villages in the virtues of cleanliness and attention to other sanitary matters. One "might as well be a dog and bay the moon" as expect these people to respond voluntarily to moral suasion on such subjects. He also undertook to instruct them in the objects of vaccination; many might submit to the operation, but to introduce an effective system of public vaccination compulsory laws would have to be enforced. As a matter of sanitary importance, Dr. Waldron states that in the early months of the year fuel and food were very scarce. This, however, arose from the disturbed state of the district at the time. Since then the markets are larger and more easily supplied.

Enclosure 3 in No. 5.

CAPE COAST.

1. *Agriculture.*

The first section of Assistant Surgeon Eyles' voluminous report deals with the subject of agriculture. He complains that though the "Blue Book abounds with information relative to "minor interviews with petty Chiefs, there is not a single farthing "spent" (I presume he means by the Government) "on the encouragement of agriculture." He then proceeds to criticise missionary education on the coast, and ridicules their system which makes the grammar and lexicon precede the spade and hoe.

2 *Live Stock.*

In this section the writer complains of the absence of beasts of burden on the coast; and as there are many herds of cattle in various localities here, he advocates the adoption by the Government of the Indian system, viz., the Government to import bulls of superior breed and distribute them amongst the owners of herds on condition that they hand over a certain percentage of their progeny to the Government. Equine mortality and its probable cause is next touched on. He thinks it might be due to the bacillus anthrax. During my eight years' sojourn at Lagos I unfortunately lost five horses and saw a great many more die, and the symptoms displayed by all were those of uræmic convulsions. Post-mortem examination of three confirmed me in this opinion.

GOLD COAST

3. *Reports of Medical Officers.*

Mr. Eyles complains of the want of what might be termed an annual medical record in our Department. It is a desideratum I grant, but the Medical Department of the Gold Coast does not differ in this respect from that of any Colony in the West Indies. The Medical Register at each station should, as its name implies, contain all the information Dr. Eyles seems to be so sadly in want of, but if surgeons neglect to make these books the repository of their observations and experiences the blame lies only at their door.

4. *European Officials.*

In this section Mr. Eyles draws attention to the fact that Europeans suffer but little from liver disease on this coast, which, he says, is due to their frequent change to Europe and to enforced (*sic*) temperance. He cites the indifferent food obtainable here as the cause of this "enforced" temperance. I am sorry to find Dr. Eyles regards the *morale* of Europeans serving here from such a low stand-point. Ten years ago intemperance was general throughout the whole coast, the food supply was as indifferent then as now; how, therefore, is it that it did not then act as a stimulus to temperate habits, as, according to him, it does now. Since then times, manners, and men have changed, and for the better, hence the true cause of our more temperate habits now.

5. *Sanitary Government.*

In this section Mr. Eyles considers the present system as bad, and says if we are to judge by results the method has failed *in toto*. He then goes on to describe at great length what he thinks is required, viz. :—

"A Commission having powers, as stated in paragraphs I. to V. of Section XX. of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, on which Commission he would place some Kings and Chiefs, thus giving them a certain amount of power of the want of which they complain."

He then goes on to detail the powers which should be granted to this Commission, but want of space prevents my being able to give a *resumé* of his further remarks, which he concludes by indirectly advocating "town rates as a means to cover expenses of sanitary improvements, but that these rates should be levied by representatives of the people! and spent entirely on their own town."

6. *The Colonial Hospital.*

The writer, in common with every other surgeon who has been stationed at Cape Coast, condemns the building now in use as a hospital there. Indeed, the unfitness of this tenement as a

hospital has been the subject of much official correspondence. The late Governors Ussher and Young condemned it; the former recommended that the old Government House at Cape Coast should be converted into a hospital and obtained the approval of the Secretary of State for so doing, and though the house has been prepared for the purpose, and though it has lain almost untenanted ever since, permission to use it as a hospital is still withheld. I cannot help adding that the so-called hospital is a disgrace to us and ought to be replaced by one more suited to the wants of the people and situated in a more central and accessible position.

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7. *Small-Pox.*

Mr. Eyles does not give the number of cases treated during the year, but says that one half were sent to Cape Coast by him when stationed at Elmina. He thinks the system of burning the patients' clothes and replacing them at Government expenses a bad one, and advocates disinfection after Rathke's method, which he says would be a great saving, particularly during a large epidemic. The expense one way or the other would be very trifling, and the subject hardly calls for further discussion.

8. *Water Supply.*

In this he recommends strongly the use of tank in preference to condensed water, which is unpalatable, often, according to some authorities, indigestible, and some think dangerous. Mr. Eyles complains bitterly of the very stinted and too often polluted water which the natives are compelled to drink. But this subject has been treated of elsewhere and no doubt soon will receive from the Government the attention which it certainly demands.

9. *Drainage.*

He thinks the present system of flushing the main drain at Cape Coast, with buckets of water brought from the adjacent wells a bad one, and advocates the sinking of pump-wells in close proximity to the drain, so that the water could be discharged directly into it.

10. *Removal of Refuse.*

Mr. Eyles is at a loss to know how to deal with this problem as it exists at Cape Coast. He thinks the method (dustbins) which is adopted at Lagos, Acora, and Elmina would not suit at Cape Coast. If these bins are not made the "receptacles for night soil" at the above stations I cannot see why they should be so used at Cape Coast. If the District Commissioners and the Medical Officers at the various stations would each in his respective province but see that the provisions of that much

GOLD COAST. — abused Health Ordinance were carried out there would be very little room left for dogmatic cavilling at its imperfections, and the sanitary conditions of the stations themselves would leave little to be desired.

11. *Latrines.*

Mr. Eyles advocates the erection of latrines at the north end of the town, each accommodated with 18 or 20 seats, and provided with means for carrying out the dry earth system of conservancy. I quite agree with Mr. Eyles as regards the erection of latrines in that part of the town, for the bush there is used as a latrine, and the sickening stench from it is positively revolting.

This advocacy of the dry earth system of conservancy, however, is open to criticism. In the first section of his report he bewails the absence of anything in the shape of agriculture. Admitting that to be, in his sense of the term, a fact, what use, may I ask, and I do so for information, does he propose to make of the conserved soil obtained from these latrines? I have no space, I am sorry to say, to discuss this question as far as I could wish, but I would recommend the Government to erect latrines at the north end of Cape Coast such as I have described in my Sanitary Report for 1884.

Enclosure 4 in No. 5.

ELMINA.

In the first paragraph of Mr. Eyles' Report he states that in 1884 he drew attention to the inadequate means supplied for keeping the town clean. Six labourers were employed, but they were principally used by the District Commissioner in laying out the bed of the creek into streets. This creek is nearly submerged at high tide. On Captain Brydon assuming the District Commissionership the scavengers were placed at Mr. Eyles' disposal, who "brought about an organised method of sanitary work "which resulted in improvement in the health of the town."

Mr. Eyles thinks six labourers quite adequate to the task of keeping Elmina clean, but they ought to be supplied with a few more handcarts; iron dustbins ought to replace the wooden ones.

With the subject of latrines Mr. Eyles "feels totally incompetent to deal, owing to the want of standard for judging the "amount of labour to meet the case." He urges, however, the adoption of the dry earth system of conservancy. This system the Rivers Pollution Commissioners (First Report, 1868) utterly condemn, save for institutions, camps, and villages; one can hardly term Elmina a village (*vide* my Report on the water supply of Lagos 1882). The fact is that the simple, efficient, economical,

and practical system adopted in camp on active service is that which would suit all these towns, and which I have advocated in my Report of 1884. GOLD COAST.

Mr. Eyles has nothing to remark on the water supply or on the subject of climate save that the rainfall was popularly said to have failed. The health of Europeans has been exceptionally good. During the period for which he writes there were nine admissions, eight with intermittent fever and one with acute dysentery; this latter patient was invalided.

Of small-pox six cases occurred from May to November. They were all forwarded to Cape Coast for treatment: one died. These cases were brought from the surrounding villages; Elmina escaped infliction. A case of chicken-pox also occurred, which infected six others. Mr. Eyles does not say how many of, or if all, these cases recovered; but no news has been generally deemed good news; we may suppose no death occurred.

Mr. Eyles' work on vaccination may be gathered from the following figures:—

Total vaccinated	-	-	-	-	1,163
Total successful	-	-	-	-	798
Unsuccessful or unascertained				-	<u>370</u>

Enclosure 5 in No. 5.

LAGOS.

(1.) Dr. Grant classes 1885 as an unhealthy year, though the sickness had not been of a very fatal nature. The rains were light at first, but became violent at end of year. This probably acted injuriously on the public health. It is, and always will be, impossible to obtain reliable data respecting the mortality occurring among the natives, but it must be very high. The epidemic of small-pox which raged last year has disappeared.

(2.) *Vital Statistics of European Community.*

Eight deaths in 1885; of these six were due to climatic causes, 23 were invalided, one died shortly after leaving port. The Europeans at Lagos usually number 100, hence the death rate in 1885 was 9 per cent., or 90 per 1,000, a figure which well represents the deadly nature of this climate.

(3.) *General Sanitary Condition of the Island.*

After discussing this subject in general terms, which has been fully dealt with in the past by many surgeons, he goes on to point out some measures calculated to diminish or remove these insanitary conditions.

GOLD COAST.
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(a.) *Absence of an Embankment.*—I need hardly repeat Dr. Grant's remarks here; they are in spirit and effect exactly what will be found expressed in my Sanitary Reports for 1883–84. No one, however, can write too strongly on the subject, for the absence of an embankment on the Marina is the cause of half the sickness amongst the Europeans living thereon. As to the back of the town, he says truly that the amelioration of things there would require formidable engineering works.

(b.) *The roads and drains are in statu quo*, or, as Dr. Grant says, in a disgraceful condition.

(c.) *Overcrowding of houses* is a prolific source of disease. This remark would apply, however, to all towns on this coast, and is a gigantic evil difficult to grapple with; but I quite agree with Dr. Grant in saying that a stricter supervision over the building of houses should be exercised.

(d.) *The Water Supply.*—This subject has been worn threadbare, and I shall therefore only notice a suggestion made by Dr. Grant, and that is to substitute tank for the well water now in use. Setting aside the question of expense, there are two serious, though happily removable, dangers to such water storage at Lagos: (1) the numerous flocks of pigeons there, and which to my knowledge foul to a very great extent the roofs of the houses; as (2) do also the masses of dead leaves which collect in the gutters of the roofs. Such a mixture of animal, mineral, and vegetable matter carried into a tank of drinking water would render it perfectly useless for any other purpose than ablution. Eliminate these possible sources of defilement, however, and Dr. Grant's suggestions, if carried out, would be a blessing to Lagos.

(e.) *The Swamps.*—Dr. Grant calls these swamps manufactories of malaria, and, coupled with the soil, which is at present said to be the chief manufacturer of that malign entity, he is right. But now that Lagos enjoys an independent Government these as well as other chronic nuisances in her midst will doubtless be remedied.

(f.) *The foreshore latrines* Dr. Grant regards as a necessary evil as they are at present constructed. He has made some suggestions for their improvement, and hopes they or some other plans will be adopted.

(g.) *The Sanitary Department, its insufficiency.*—This is bitterly complained of, and with every reason. Dr. Grant suggests that convict labour might with advantage be employed in sanitary work, and the police be compelled to assist in the suppression of offences against the sanitary clauses of the "Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance."

Enclosure 6 in No. 5.

GOLD COAST.

AXIM.

The town of Axim is situated on the coast in a small bay, which is about 3 miles wide. This bay is studded with rocks and has several small islands. The landing is good, being protected from heavy swells by ridges of rocks and the islands. Fort St. Anthony, built on a rocky point, is situated between the two parts into which the town is divided. Towards the southern division of the town the sea has been making extensive encroachments, due, I believe, to the subsidence of the lands. The town is surrounded by hills covered with bush or forest; these are drained by several streams, yielding the natives a good and plentiful supply of water at all seasons of the year.

2. The soil is mainly quartz gravel embedded in a ferruginous clay covering porphyritic rocks, in which there are extensive quartz veins. A few miles in the interior and at many places on the coast the geological structure is mainly shale with large auriferous quartz veins, the disintegration of which supplies in some places large alluvial deposits.

3. Owing to the proximity of the hills and forests the rainfall is much larger here than at any other part of the coast line. In the interior the rainfall increases in quantity and duration, scarcely a day passing without a heavy fall. I am informed that one day last year at Akankos the rainfall was eight inches. In the rains the Ankobra River rises over 20 feet.

4. The town is small, and before the advent of miners was merely a fishing village; honest trade is blighted owing to the extensive smuggling carried on in Appolonia. As this is the cleanest town in the Colony and having a constant supply of good water it is one of the healthiest for the natives. As regards Europeans there seems to be little difference in the health of this district from that of other parts of the Colony.

5. Being in the neighbourhood of the mines there is much overcrowding. This is due to the mania for the acquisition of land, which existed a few years back; then the Chiefs sold the land up to their huts to different companies, leaving no room for the extension of the town nor for the necessary cultivation to supply its increasing number of inhabitants with food. This which was formerly the granary of the coast does not now produce sufficient for its own consumption.

6. Land which was formerly cultivated is now abandoned, the lessees making no use of it and the natives are afraid to trespass. This has had a very deleterious effect and is driving the most useful class, namely, agriculturalists, to seek for other employment. Land laws are much needed in this Colony. It is absurd to allow that a native Chief whose dominion extends over a few villages, the inhabitants of which can never exceed a hundred in number, and

GOLD COAST. — who a few years ago only laid claim to the land immediately adjoining the villages, should at the suggestion of unscrupulous purchasers of concessions suddenly become the lords of vast tracts, many miles in extent, with power to dispose of the land wholesale for their own sole benefits.

7. At present all the land surrounding the town is the property of some mining company, so that extension of the town is impossible, and, through the negligence of District Commissioners in not enforcing the provisions of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, this has resulted in the obstruction of many streets by huts, no supervision having been exercised when the natives were building.

8. Latrines are much required as the natives at present resort to the beach and bush for want of other accommodation, with a result which is so common in all African towns. Dysentery by this means is fostered and maintained as an endemic disease.

9. As there is not any system of registration of births and deaths it is impossible to estimate the increase of population or the mortality. I think that the Inspector of Nuisance might act as registrar

10. The records of the Medical Department do not supply any reliable statistics as to the general health of the district as the attendance of out-patients is so small, the hospital and dispensary having only recently been opened. Without such data a report would be valueless; I shall therefore confine myself to allusion to sanitary defects. Prominent amongst these is the absence of any attempt to ameliorate the climate by mitigation of malarial diseases.

11. The two necessities for the eradication of malaria have been found practically to be cultivation of the soil and subsoil drainage. There is no attempt at cultivation properly so-called. When a native wishes to make a corn plantation he resorts to the forest, where he commences operation by destroying all the trees by means of the axe and fire. When sufficient land is thus cleared he plants his corn.

12. The soil being poor is soon exhausted, so that after a few crops the land is deserted. In a few years the clearing becomes overgrown with a dense impenetrable bush. Where there is plenty of land this bush is left untouched, but near towns, where land is valuable, this bush is cut down and burnt. A few more crops are then obtained which further impoverishes the soil, and now instead of the bush reappearing a coarse, scanty grass crop takes its place. When this stage is reached all hopes of the regeneration of the forest are lost, as the grass is the subject of constant fires, which gradually destroy the surrounding bush, grass taking its place forming eventually extensive savannahs. The soil of these savannahs is too poor to repay cultivation. Thus the larger towns become surrounded with an extending zone of uncultivated, undrained land, undrained owing to the absence of the roots of actively growing trees, the drainage effected by the

roots of the grass being superficial and so inconsiderable in amount GOLD COAST.
as to be unworthy of note.

13. It is in the subsoil under favourable conditions as to temperature and moisture that the malarial poison is generated. The temperature cannot be regulated to any very great extent but the amount of moisture is capable of great reduction. This can be most effectively and economically performed by the means supplied by nature in the roots of trees. The roots of trees in searching for moisture penetrate to considerable depths beyond the zone in which it is supposed the malarial poison is produced. If the tree is of rapid growth the expiration of water from its foliage is enormous and the roots have to furnish this water from the soil.

Such plants as the bamboo, which is one of the most rapid in its growth, can be used for this purpose. The trees, however, generally employed are the various species of the genus eucalyptus, together with arancarias, acacias, and melaleucas, the latter being employed where the soil is impregnated with salt. The eucalyptus in addition to its rapid growth and desiccating power has the further recommendation of producing a volatile antiseptic oil, the aroma of which would be a pleasant addition to the odours of an African town.

In my opinion the eradication of malaria ought to be the first sanitary work undertaken, as it is the presence of this poison which has prevented the development of this Colony and as a means to this end I should recommend the immediate formation of nurseries for the cultivation of such trees as have elsewhere been found to have a beneficial effect.

(Signed) J. W. ROWLAND,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

Enclosure 7 in No. 5.

J. D. M'CARTHY to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

THE subject matter of Dr. Rowland's Report is so condensed in style, and contains such valuable information, that I find it almost impossible to make a précis of it without detracting from its merits; I therefore submit it in its entirety for publication in the Blue Book.

The same remarks apply to his Gaol Report.

(Signed) J. D. M'CARTHY.
The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

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GOLD COAST AND LAGOS.

No. 6.

Governor W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the Right
Hon. Sir H. T. HOLLAND, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, March 30, 1887.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a short report upon the Blue Book of the Gold Coast Colony (including Lagos) for the year 1885.

2. I have to express my regret that this report should not have been forwarded to you at an earlier date. The Blue Book itself was only out of the printer's hands late in the year 1886.

3. The statistics of the Gold Coast proper and of Lagos were kept distinct until the year 1884, when the Blue Books for the two settlements were merged in one volume.

4. I trust at a future time to have sufficient leisure to devote my attention to the compilation of a more detailed statement of the progress which the Colony has made since its constitution as a separate dependency of the Crown, in the year 1874. From a financial point of view alone, however, it may be interesting to here state briefly that the revenue of the Gold Coast and Lagos amounted in that year to 74,368*l.* and 39,335*l.* respectively, or 113,703*l.* in all, while in 1885, 11 years after, they had increased to 130,456*l.* and 63,419*l.*, or a total of 193,875*l.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.

Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

&c.

&c.

&c.

REPORT.

Taxation.

1. The only changes made in the taxes, duties, and fees of the Colony were the reduction of the scale of commission on money orders to a uniform charge of 2*d.* for every sum of 10*s.* or portion of 10*s.* up to 10*l.*, and the imposition, under Ordinance No. 6 of 1885, of a charge of 9*d.* per quarter for each barrel of gunpowder of 100 lbs. weight stored in the newly constructed Government magazines.

*Revenue and Expenditure.*GOLD COAST
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2. The revenue amounted to 193,875*l.*, or a sum of 9,988*l.* in excess of that for the year previous, the principal item of increase being that of a sum of 8,866*l.* under the head of Customs, which is accounted for by an increased import of spirits. The expenditure amounted to 152,923*l.*, showing an apparent decrease of 4,717*l.* as compared with that for 1884. This decrease is to some extent owing to the adjustment in 1884 of arrears of account of the year 1883. The balance to the credit of the Colony on the 1st January 1885 was 181,906*l.*

Local Revenues.

3. There are no local revenues not brought to account in the general revenue of the Colony.

Public Debt.

4. There was no public debt in 1885.

Public Works.

5. The expenditure on public works, exclusive of establishments, amounted to 19,994*l.* during the year. Powder magazines were erected at Accra and Cape Coast. An important drain at Cape Coast was completed, and a bridge across the Five Cowrie creek at Lagos was in course of construction, and some repairs to the Fort at Anamaboe were also executed.

Legislation.

6. The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1 of 1885. The Travelling Ordinance, 1885.

No. 2 of 1885. The Geraldo de Lima Detention Ordinance, 1885.

No. 3 of 1885. The Lunatics Removal Ordinance, 1885.

No. 4 of 1885. The Treasury and Customs Ordinance, 1885.

No. 5 of 1885. The Supply Ordinance, 1886.

No. 6 of 1885. The Government Gunpowder Magazines Ordinance, 1885.

Councils and Assemblies.

7. There were no changes in the constitution of the executive and legislative councils during the year beyond those involved by the regular annual leave of the official members.

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Civil Establishment.

8. The following are the more important changes which took place in the civil establishment during the year:—Governor William A. G. Young, C.M.G., having died from an attack of malarious fever on the 24th April, the administration of the Government of the Colony devolved upon me as Lieutenant-Governor until the 6th October, when I was appointed to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast. The Colonial Secretary, Captain Barrow, C.M.G., acted as deputy for the Governor at Lagos from the 1st January to 28th February, and Mr. F. Evans, C.M.G., Assistant Colonial Secretary, from the 10th of May until the end of the year. Mr. F. Evans acted as Colonial Secretary from the 15th January to the 7th May, Mr. C. D. Turton from the 15th May to the 31st July, and Mr. P. Hughes from the 1st January to the 14th January and from the 1st August to the 10th October. Mr. C. Pike was appointed to be Treasurer of the Gold Coast on the 1st October, Mr. E. G. Woolhouse to be Assistant Treasurer, Mr. W. Manford, the Auditor, provisionally to be Comptroller of Customs on the Gold Coast on the 1st October, upon the constitution of a department of customs as distinct from that of the Treasury, with which it had theretofore been combined; Mr. Henry Bartlett, C.B., was appointed to be Auditor for the Gold Coast Colony and Lagos on the 5th September, and Mr. G. H. Ross to be Colonial Surveyor of Lagos on the 21st November. The mortality among the European officers was unfortunately large, no less than three besides the Governor having died during the year.

Pensions.

9. A pension of 241*l.* per annum was granted to Dr. J. H. Jeans, late Colonial Surgeon, forming the only noteworthy addition to the pension list during the year.

Expenditure of the Establishments.

10. The amount paid during the year on account of establishments was 65,146*l.*

Foreign Consuls.

11. Baron Von Soden was recognized as Consul General for Germany from Sierra Leone to Mossamedes on the 2nd July, Mr. Falkenthal as Consul for Germany from Sierra Leone to Lagos on the same date, and Mr. J. J. Fischer as Consul for Germany at Accra on the 27th October.

Population.

12. No census has yet been taken on the Gold Coast; the population inclusive of the protected territories has been estimated at

651,000, and that of Lagos and its protectorate at 75,270, giving a total of 726,270 souls, or 36·31 to the square mile.

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Education.

13. A sum of 2,135*l.* was expended by the Government in the promotion of education, or an increase of 65*l.* over the expenditure for the year 1884. Much useful educational work is done on the Gold Coast by the Basel Missionary Society, the annual expenditure of which is stated at upwards of 9,000*l.* There were 4,554 scholars in the schools on the Gold Coast during the year and 2,527 in those at Lagos.

Exchanges, Moneys, Weights and Measures.

14. The amount of coin and paper currency in circulation has not been ascertained. There are no banks in the Colony. British standard weights and measures are in use.

Imports and Exports.

15. The value of imports amounted to 1,008,988*l.*, and that of the exports to 1,110,498*l.* The course of the trade being as follows:—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
United Kingdom - - -	637,194	537,061
British Colonies - - -	1,437	2,732
Foreign Countries - - -	370,356	570,705

Of the exports, 995,368*l.* represented the value of the produce and manufactures of the Colony, and 115,130*l.* that of British, foreign, and colonial manufactures.

Shipping.

16. 630 steamers with a tonnage of 546,744 entered, 600 steamers of 483,305 tons cleared, and 98 sailing vessels with a tonnage of 29,524, and 85 sailing vessels of 25,469 tons cleared at ports in the Colony during the year. Of the steamers entering, tonnage to the amount of 496,012 was of British and 50,732 was of foreign origin. Of the tonnage of the sailing vessels entering 2,000 was British and 27,524 was foreign.

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LAGOS.

Agriculture.

17. The entire area of the Colony was estimated at 12,800,000 acres in 1885, but there are no means of ascertaining the acreage under cultivation or otherwise.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

18. No manufactories exist; simple stuffs for local use are woven by the natives, and large quantities of bricks of inferior quality are produced. Fish also are salted and bartered with the tribes of the interior. The principal gold mines are situated in Wassaw, in the western region of the protectorate. Six principal companies existed in 1885, but the sphere of their operations was very limited. The value of the gold dust exported in 1885 amounted to 89,981*l.*, but by far the greater portion of it was remitted either by the Government or by the merchants.

Gaols and Prisoners.

19. The daily average of prisoners was 362, or the same as that of the preceding year. The total number of committals amounted in 1885 to 1,437, or 17 more than that for the preceding year. In 1884, however, no returns were received from the district gaol at Quittah.

Criminal Statistics.

20. The number of convictions in the superior courts was 158, or 23 less than that for 1884. In the inferior courts there were 2,478 convictions, or 272 more than those in 1884.

Hospitals and Asylums.

21. 1,610 patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony during the year, exclusive of outpatients, as against 1,332 in the year before, the principal diseases being malarial fevers, syphilis, diseases of the skin, parasitic diseases, and at Lagos small-pox. There are no lunatic asylums yet in the Colony, but dangerous lunatics are sent to the asylum at Sierra Leone for treatment at the expense of Gold Coast funds.

W. B. G.

MAURITIUS.**MAURITIUS.**

No. 7.

Administrator Major-General W. H. HAWLEY to the Right
Hon. EDWARD STANHOPE, M.P.

Government House, Mauritius,
January 17, 1887.

SIR,

REFERRING to Mr. Beyts' Despatch of the 21st of October last transmitting the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1885, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a summary of the Blue Book prepared by Mr. Beyts while acting as Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. HAWLEY, Major-General,
Administering Government.

The Right Hon. Edward Stanhope, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

**SUMMARY of the MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK and ADMINISTRATION
REPORTS of 1885.**

I.—TAXATION.

No changes were made in 1885 in the taxes of the Colony.

II.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

			Rs.	c.
The revenue of 1885 was	-	-	7,309,233	14
Showing a decrease of	-	-	1,300,394	78
<hr/>				
as compared with the revenue of 1884,				
which was	-	-	8,609,627	92
<hr/>				
The expenditure of 1885 was	-	-	8,391,059	09
showing a decrease of	-	-	771,382	95
<hr/>				
on the expenditure of 1884, which				
amounted to	-	-	9,162,442	04
<hr/>				

MAURITIUS.

The ratio of the revenue to the population was Rs. 19.73 per head.

The ratio of the expenditure to the population was Rs. 22.65 per head.

III.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.**1. Commissioners of Currency :—**

	Rs.	c.
Assets - - -	3,808,742	14
Liabilities - - -	3,323,150	00
Surplus -	485,502	14

2. Government Savings Bank :—

	Rs.	c.
Assets - - -	3,416,171	09
Liabilities { Amount due to depositors, including interest - - -	3,144,668	91
Surplus -	271,502	18

3. Curatelle :—

	Rs.	c.
Assets - - -	400,559	51
Liabilities - - -	400,559	51

4. Treasury proper :—

	Rs.	c.
Assets - - -	3,942,795	65
Liabilities (exclusive of railway debts) - - -	1,121,771	01
Surplus on 31st December 1885 -	2,821,024	64

IV.—RAILWAY DEBTS.

The railway debts stood as follows on the 31st December 1885 :—

	£
Mauritius Railway debentures, payable 15th February 1895 and 15th January 1896 -	240,000
Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. payable by annual drawings in and from 1881 -	95,800
Moka Railway 4½ per cent. payable by annual drawings in and from 1884 -	101,000
Consolidated 4 per cent. payable by annual drawings from 1882 -	302,800
Total - - -	742,600

V.—CURRENCY.

MAURITIUS.

Amount of currency notes in circulation on 31st of December 1885 :—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1849 - - -	516	19	8
„ of 1860 - - -	3,703	0	0
Total	4,219	19	8

Issue of 1876 :—

	Rs.
In the banks of the Colony - -	671,605
In the hands of the public - -	2,651,645
Total	3,323,250

VI.—SAVINGS BANK.

	Rs.	c.
The amount deposited in 1885 was -	1,042,061	00
This amount, compared to that of 1884, shows a decrease of - - -	240,390	00

The amount deposited in 1884 being -	1,282,451	00
The total sum standing to the credit of depositors, at the end of 1885, including the interest due to them, was -	3,144,668	91

Of this sum, Rs. 1,496,553.25 belonged to the Indian population.

The number of depositors increased from 16,969 in 1884 to 18,458 in 1885; of these 8,632 belonged to the Indian population.

VII.—CURATELLE.

The deposits, including interest, amounted to Rs. 400,559.51.

The assets consisted of the following sums :—

	Rs.	c.
(a.) Cash balance in local bank -	166,975	08
(b.) Invested in England - -	231,981	65
(c.) In hands of Crown Agents -	1,602	78
Total - -	400,559	51

MAURITIUS.

VIII.—FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF PORT LOUIS.

	Rs.	c.
Balance on hand on 1st January 1885	-	24,440 37
Revenue and receipts on account during 1885	-	- 2,800,576 89
Total	-	<u>- 2,825,017 26</u>
Expenditure and payments on account during 1885	-	- 2,778,558 34
Balance on hand on 31st December 1885	-	<u>- 36,458 92</u>

Debenture Debt of the Municipal Corporation on 31st December, 1885.

	Principal.	Interest.	Total.
	£	£	£
1886 - - - -	18,080	3,715	16,795
1887 - - - -	10,760	2,840	18,600
1888 - - - -	80,200	1,370	81,570
1889 - - - -	9,240	116	9,356
	<u>63,280</u>	<u>8,041</u>	<u>71,321</u>

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The military contribution paid by the Colony in 1885 amounted to Rs. 185,208 31.

The troops in the Colony at the end of the year were as follows:—

Staff	-	-	9
Royal Artillery	-	-	105
Royal Engineers	-	-	11
Detachment 1st battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	-	-	306
Ordnance Store Corps	-	-	2
Corps of Ordnance Artificers	-	-	1
Army Hospital Corps	-	-	11
1st Battalion Welsh Regiment	-	-	1
Total	-	-	<u>446</u>

The total military expenditure amounted to 38,589*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*

X.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

MAURITIUS.

Exclusive of specie and bullion, the value of imports in 1885 amounted to Rs. 20,208,263 and that of exports to Rs. 34,115,646.

In 1884 the imports were valued at Rs. 27,577,908 and the exports at Rs. 38,496,431, exclusive of specie and bullion.

The rate of imports per head of population was as follows during 1884 and 1885:—

					Rs. c.
1884	-	-	-	-	74 3
1885	-	-	-	-	54 5

The rate of exports per head of population was as follows during 1884 and 1885:—

					Rs. c.
1884	-	-	-	-	103 8
1885	-	-	-	-	92 1

The exports of sugar in 1884 and 1885 were as follows:—

		Quantity.	Value.
		Kilos.	Rs.
1884	- - - -	125,655,946	85,544,981
1885	- - - -	115,656,096	81,207,255
Decrease	- - -	9,999,850	4,337,676

The value of each of the other products exported was as follows:—

					Rs.
Rum	-	-	-	-	483,507
Vanilla	-	-	-	-	309,301
Aloe fibre	-	-	-	-	165,633
Molasses	-	-	-	-	11,696
Cocoonut oil	-	-	-	-	209,641
Raw hides	-	-	-	-	11,270
Lime	-	-	-	-	400

XI.—SHIPPING.

Under this head the year 1885, compared with 1884, shows the following differences:—

		1884.	1885.	Decrease.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards	- - -	380,649	300,271	80,378
Outwards	- - -	378,768	308,841	69,922

MAURITIUS.

Number of Ships.

—	1884.	1885.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards - - - -	595	470	125
Outwards - - - -	593	488	105

XII.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated resident population on the 31st December 1885 was as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Totals.
General population - -	68,337	56,182	119,519
Indian population - -	148,024	102,861	250,885
Totals - - -	211,861	159,043	370,404

As compared with the population of 1884 that of 1885 shows a decrease of 362.

The births registered in 1885 stand thus:—

—	Males.	Females.	Totals.
General population - -	2,139	2,011	4,150
Indian population - -	4,817	4,590	9,407
Totals - - -	6,956	6,601	13,557

The births during 1885 show a decrease of 601 as compared to those of 1884, the births in 1884 standing as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Totals.
General population - -	2,292	2,157	4,449
Indian population - -	4,923	4,786	9,709
Totals - - -	7,215	6,943	14,188

The deaths registered in 1885 were as follows :—

MAURITIUS.

—	Males.	Females.	Totals.
General population - -	2,055	1,808	3,863
Indian population - -	5,094	3,895	8,489
Totals - - -	7,149	5,203	12,352

The number of deaths in 1885 shows an increase of 1,105 compared with 1884.

The birth-rate in the total population was 36·5 and the death-rate 33·3 per 1,000.

As compared with 1884 the birth-rate shows a decrease of 1·6 per 1,000, and the death-rate an increase of 3·0 per 1,000.

The births throughout the Colony in 1885 exceeded the deaths by 1,205.

The number of still-births in 1885 was 934, showing a decrease of 73 compared with 1884, of 179 compared with 1883, and of 173 compared with 1882.

The number of suicides in 1885 was 45; in 1884 they amounted to 42.

XIII.—IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR.

The total number of immigrants introduced in 1885 was as follows :—

—	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
From Madras - -	212	83	63	358

showing a decrease of 6,031 compared with 1884.

The average cost of introduction per male statute adult was Rs. 124.

The number of coolies who left the Colony last year was larger than during the five previous years, as shown by the following statement :—

—	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1880 - - - -	1,781	614	2,345
1881 - - - -	1,180	874	1,554
1882 - - - -	1,704	624	2,328
1883 - - - -	1,766	640	2,406
1884 - - - -	1,352	491	1,853
1885 - - - -	2,891	1,110	4,001

MAURITIUS.

Of the coolies who left in 1885:—

1,491	-	-	-	went to Calcutta
1,691	-	-	-	„ Madras
770	-	-	-	„ Bombay
25	-	-	-	„ Tranquebar
6	-	-	-	„ Réunion
1	-	-	-	„ Madagascar
18	-	-	-	„ Pondicherry.

The proportion of females to males in the departures of 1885 was 38·3 per cent., i.e., 2·3 per cent. more than in 1884.

XIV.—EDUCATION.

At the end of 1885 there were 140 schools in operation, which are thus classified.

Government schools, I. Grade	-	-	46
„ „ II. „	-	-	19
Aided schools	-	-	75
Total	-	-	140

In the Government schools 219 teachers of various grades were employed at the end of the year 1885. In the aided schools 72 head teachers and 65 assistants derived their emoluments from Government grants.

The average number of scholars on roll in 1885 was:—

In Government schools	-	-	7,546
„ aided schools	-	-	7,001
Total	-	-	14,547

showing an increase of 1,230 over 1884.

Of the total number of pupils at the end of 1885, 77 per cent. were creoles of either European, African, or Chinese descent, and 23 per cent. were Indians, or of Indian origin.

Divided according to their religious persuasions, they stood as follows:—

	Government Schools.	Aided Schools.	Total.
Members of Church of England	278	174	452
Roman Catholics	5,519	5,496	10,945
Belonging to other Christian creeds	142	122	264
Mahometans	471	253	724
Hindoos and others	1,066	976	2,042

Their relative numbers are shown by the following per-cent- MAURITIUS.
ages:—

	Per cent.
Members of the Church of England -	- 3
Roman Catholics - - -	- 76
Members of other Christian denominations -	- 2
Mahometans - - -	- 5
Hindoos and others - - -	- 14

The average attendance of scholars was—

In Government schools - - -	- 4,950
„ aided schools - - -	- 4,603
	<hr/>
Total - - -	- 9,553
	<hr/>

showing an increase of 1,034 over 1884.

The cost to Government of each pupil on the rolls was as follows:—

In Government schools, Rs. 16.90, *i.e.*, Rs. 2.27 less than in 1884.

In aided schools, Rs. 12.48, *i.e.*, Rs. 1.45 more than in 1884.

The total net expenditure of the Government schools, deducting the fees collected, which amounted to Rs. 3,280, was Rs. 127,522.

The numbers of pupils in the Royal College and the Royal College schools at the end of 1884 and 1885 were as follow:—

—	1884.	1885.
Royal College proper - -	141	143
„ „ School, Port Louis -	226	180
„ „ „ Curepipe -	163	172
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals - - -	530	495

MAURITIUS. The sums disbursed for educational purposes in 1885 were as follows :—

			Rs.	c.
Royal College	-	-	163,499	80
Government schools	-	-	142,231	38
Aided schools	-	-	87,370	11
Administration of Government and aided schools	-	-	21,164	58
Industrial education	-	-	2,995	54
Total	-	-	417,261	41*

The total expenditure in 1884 was - 419,344 83*

Decrease of expenditure in 1885 - 2,083 42

XV.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrate was 25,710, *i.e.*, 23 more than in 1884.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts was 14,399, *i.e.*, 175 more than in 1884.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows :—

	1884.	1885.
For offences against the person -	32	29
For prædial larceny - -	—	—
For offences against property other than prædial larceny - -	42	48
For other offences - - -	2	2
Totals - - -	76	79

* These figures do not include the sums spent at Rodrigues, which amounted to Rs. 2,984 in 1884 and Rs. 3,927 in 1885.

The acquittals were as follows :—

MAURITIUS.

	1884.	1885.
In the inferior courts - -	5,918	4,086
In the supreme court - -	16	20

XVI.—GAOLS.

The total number of persons committed in 1885 was 8,884, *i.e.*, 705 more than in 1884, and 1,936 more than in 1883.

26 were imprisoned for debt.

2,551	„	for nonpayment of fines and costs.
1,624	„	for safe custody till trial, or want of security.
4,683	„	for offences against the criminal laws.

The above-mentioned committals include 2,252 under the Vagrancy Law, 789 more than in 1884; and 179 removals to the Juvenile Reformatory, 101 more than in 1884.

The penal imprisonments stand as follows :—

For five years or more	-	-	20
For one year or more	-	-	102
For more than three months and less than one year	-	-	489
For three months or less	-	-	4,072
Total	-	-	<u>4,683</u>

showing an increase of 741 compared with 1884.

The construction of a new central prison, begun in 1884, made considerable progress, and was considered likely to be sufficiently advanced at the end of 1886 to allow the prison to be partly occupied.

The effects of the mark system on the discipline of the prisons were favourably reported upon by the prison authorities.

MAURITIUS.

XVII.—ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

In Mauritius (exclusive of the dependencies), the adherents of the churches supported by the Government were, according to the census of 1881, as follows:—

Roman Catholics	-	-	-	108,000
Protestants	-	-	-	8,000

The numbers of ministers were as follows:—

Roman Catholic Church	-	-	-	48
Church of England	-	-	-	17
Presbyterian Church	-	-	-	3

The expenses incurred in 1885 for the ecclesiastical establishments were as follows:—

	Establishments.	Grants in aid of Stipends.	For Missions.	Building Grants.	Total.	Rate per Member of each Church.
	Rs. c.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Roman Catholic Church -	64,088 11	3,000	4,910	7,850	79,848 11	0 73
Church of England -	80,155 83	2,509	4,910	2,650	40,215 83	} 5 61
Presbyterian Church -	2,499 96	2,000	189	—	4,679 96	
	96,743 90	7,500	10,000	10,000	124,243 98	—

XVIII.—FORESTS AND CROWN LANDS.

Under this head, the total revenue derived from sales and leases amounted in 1885 to Rs. 59,310; and the total expenditure, exclusive of the disbursements for purchases of land, amounted to Rs. 143,020.

The sums disbursed from 1881 and for the acquisition of lands for afforestation purposes, were as follows:—

	Rs.
1881 -	72,301
1882 -	590,433
1883 -	688,363
1884 -	912,816
1885 -	20,203
	<u>2,284,116</u>

XIX.—RAILWAYS.

The railway revenue and expenditure stood as follows:—

	1884.	1885.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Revenue - - - - -	1,740,608 56	1,544,063 11
Expenditure - - - - -	1,159,609 22	1,307,613 71

showing a decrease of revenue and an increase of expenditure in 1885.

XX.—POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The gross revenue collected in 1885 was Rs. 83,059.71 against Rs. 85,099.65 in 1884.

The letters, post-cards, and newspapers which passed through the office were as follows:—

	Letters.	Post-cards.	Newspapers.
1884 - - - - -	901,759	16,188	906,470
1885 - - - - -	856,686	24,505	885,952
Increase - - -	—	8,317	—
Decrease - - -	45,073	—	20,518

The postal money-order business showed an increase of Rs. 5,708.99.

	Rs. c.
1884 - - - - -	241,925 36
1885 - - - - -	247,634 35
Increase - - -	5,708 99

The following subsidies were paid to ocean mail packets:—

	Rs.
To the Messageries Maritimes Company -	80,000
To the Castle Mail Packets Company -	60,000

MAURITIUS.

XXI.—OBSERVATORY.

The mean temperature of the air was $73^{\circ}\cdot6$, against an average of $73^{\circ}\cdot9$ for the 11 years 1875–85. The highest temperature was $86^{\circ}\cdot7$ on the 1st of February and the lowest $57^{\circ}\cdot4$ on the 25th of July. The highest temperature in the sun's rays was $166^{\circ}\cdot7$ on the 8th of March, and the lowest on grass $46^{\circ}\cdot2$ on the 24th of June. The highest temperature of the soil at a depth of 5 feet was $81^{\circ}\cdot6$ on the 22nd of March and the lowest 75° on the 18th of September.

The mean barometric pressure, reduced to sea-level, was 30·069 inches, against an average of 30·081. The highest pressure was 30·397 on the 23rd of August, and the lowest 29·663 on the 12th of December.

The mean vapour-tension was 0·625 inch, against an average of 0·620. The highest was 0·914 on the 25th of January and the lowest 0·374 on the 10th and 25th of July.

The rainfall was 44·61 inches, against an average of 48·10. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 2·71 on the 2nd of May. The usually dry months of May to October were the rainiest on record.

The mean hourly velocity of the wind was 10·4 miles, against an average of 11·6, and the mean direction was S. $74^{\circ} 34'$ E., against an average of S. $74^{\circ} 55'$ E. The greatest velocity in one hour was 29·0 miles on the 2nd of September.

Thunder or lightning, or both together, were observed on 44 days, against an average of 32.

Seventeen storm-warnings were issued.

13,237 days' observations at sea were tabulated and the tracks of nine cyclones determined and laid down on a chart.

Eighty-seven weather charts of the Indian Ocean were constructed.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year, and the absolute values of the magnetic elements determined monthly. The largest magnetic disturbances occurred on the 15th and 16th of March, 13th and 14th of May, and 25th and 26th of June.

Four hundred and eighty-four photographs of the sun were taken.

On 11 days there were no sun spots.

Observations for time were taken daily, when the weather permitted, and the time-ball was dropped three times a week.

On the 13th of April a considerable increase in the intensity of the fore and after glows occurred, and it continued more or less for four months.

XXII.—LEGISLATION.

Sixteen Ordinances were passed in 1885, the most important of which are :—

No. 21.—To make provision with regard to the destruction of cuscuta creeper.

No. 23.—To secure provisionally the status of French mail steamers at the ports of Mauritius and its dependencies.

No. 25.—To amend the provisions of Ordinance No. 10 of 1881 with regard to the acquisition of land by the Government.

No. 26.—To give to magistrates the power of awarding penalties less than the minimum penalties fixed by Ordinance No. 8 of 1869 "To amend and consolidate the Laws on Games."

No. 27.—To abolish imprisonment for costs in criminal matters.

No. 28.—To provide for the discipline of the police force in the Island of Diego Garcia.

No. 30.—To make further provision concerning explosive substances.

No. 32.—To authorise the removal of water from Mare aux Vacoas for public purposes.

No. 33.—To authorise the incorporation of the Mauritius Société d'Agriculture.

No. 34.—To make provision for granting pensions to widows and children of deceased public officers of this Colony.

No. 36.—To provide for the management of the Civil Hospital of Port Louis.

XXIII.—DEPENDENCIES.

(a.) *Seychelles and Rodrigues.*

The Seychelles Blue Book and the Report of the Chief Civil Commissioner of Rodrigues for 1885 are herewith submitted.

(b.) *Minor Dependencies.*

The magistrate for the lesser dependencies visited the following Islands during the year 1886 :—

(1.) Agalega.

(2.) Coëtivy.

A police officer, vested with magisterial powers, and a staff of six constables, were sent to Diégo Garcia, where coal depôts had been established by two steamships companies trading between England and Australia.

To recoup the cost of the establishment, a duty of six cents of a rupee per ton was levied on the ships that arrived at Diégo Garcia. Her Majesty's ships and foreign men-of-war were exempted from the charge. The revenue so collected was insufficient to cover the expenditure.

H. N. D. BEYTS,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

MAURITIUS.
 ———
 RODRIGUES.
 ———

No. 8.

REPORT ON THE ISLAND OF RODRIGUES FOR THE
 YEAR 1885.

Civil Commissioner's Office, Rodrigues,

SIR,

May 30, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith my report
 on the Island of Rodrigues for the year 1885.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BOUCHERAT,
 Acting Civil Commissioner
 and Police Magistrate.

The Hon. the
 Lieutenant-Governor and
 Colonial Secretary, Mauritius.

I.

The receipts for the year 1885 amounted to Rs. 6,580.3, showing a decrease of the sum of Rs. 2,114.71 in comparison with the previous year.

Receipts for past Two Years.

No.	Heads of Receipts.	1884.	1885.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1	Land sales and forest produce - - -	205 48	183 60
2	Miscellaneous (including Customs) - - -	1,947 39	491 71
3	Land rent - - -	1,186 75	1,241 75
4	Pasturage - - -	1,919 25	1,695 50
5	Registration dues - - -	12 50	12 52
6	Licenses (shop and game) - - -	1,251 50	1,095 00
7	Stamps - - -	112 85	96 40
8	Taxes (horse and dog) - - -	428 75	521 25
9	Postage - - -	118 42	160 77
10	Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court - - -	592 82	363 87
11	Fees of office - - -	9 50	18 13
12	Sale of Government property - - -	755 88	569 78
13	School fees - - -	177 25	143 25
	Total - - -	8,702 74	6,588 03

The decrease shown in the above table is accounted for as follows: Mr. James Martin, the owner of a large herd of bullocks and of goats, grazing on Crown lands here, has not as yet paid the taxes due for pasturage, amounting to Rs. 492 or thereabouts. As regards Item 1 (land sales and forest produce) the decrease is to be attributed to the fact that several persons wanted to purchase Crown lands, but I was directed by his Excellency the Governor to allow these matters to stand over until his intended visit at Rodrigues this year. The receipts under the heading licenses also show a falling off. One of the principal traders of this place

(Mr. G. Lucchesi) having died last year, his shop was closed, and the license was not renewed, a matter of Rs. 130. There is also a decrease under the following headings : stamps, fines, forfeitures, and fees of court, sale of Government property, and school fees. There is a great decrease under the heading miscellaneous (including customs), as against 1884. The reason is that in 1884, on account of the wreck of the French barque "Bretagne," a great quantity of goods was sold here on which customs dues were paid to the amount of Rs. 855.

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

Items 3, 8, 9 and 11 of the above table show an increase in favour of the year 1885 as against the year 1884.

The amount shown in the above table is what appears in my books as having been actually received in Rodrigues. To this, however, must be added a much larger sum (about Rs. 10,000) for customs dues collected in Mauritius on goods shipped from here to this Dependency. The exact amount I cannot as yet state; the Honourable the Auditor-General will be able to furnish correct information about it.

II.—EXPENDITURE.

There has been a decrease of Rs. 2,837.18 in the expenditure of last year as against 1884.*

Expenditure for past Two Years.

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1884.		1885.	
		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1	Civil Commissioner and police magistrate (Mr. O'Halloran) on leave, drawing half salary -	8,816	47	—	—
2	Acting Civil Commissioner and police magistrate, half salary - - - - -	183	31	1,999	92
3	Postmaster - - - - -	120	00	120	00
4	Government medical officer - - - - -	1,999	92	1,999	92
5	Roman Catholic priest - - - - -	1,999	92	833	30
6	Police (including forest ranger) - - - - -	5,109	89	4,870	72
7	Schools' department - - - - -	3,259	92	2,828	22
8	Hospital servant - - - - -	192	00	192	00
9	Scavengers - - - - -	288	00	306	85
10	Rent to Government medical officer - - - - -	600	00	600	00
11	„ to Schools' employes - - - - -	860	00	373	00
12	„ Chief officer of police - - - - -	35	18	—	—
13	Meteorological observer - - - - -	183	00	182	50
14	School cleaning - - - - -	156	00	156	00
15	Clerical assistance to Civil Commissioner (including Peou) - - - - -	260	00	440	00
16	Taxation of Crown witnesses - - - - -	7	75	179	48
17	Works and buildings, including sanitary - - - - -	1,146	24	740	03
18	Repairs to boats and buildings, and purchase of sails, &c. - - - - -	39	51	56	77
19	Prisoners' rations, extra - - - - -	2	46	17	13
20	Rations, hospital servant, and scavengers - - - - -	51	12	39	90
21	Fees to usher (Police Court) - - - - -	48	75	58	50
22	Vaccination fees, Government medical officer - - - - -	108	00	106	50

* A mistake crept into my report for 1884, which should read as follows:—Item 20 (heads of expenditure), Rs. 1,146.24, instead of Rs. 391.62. The total expenditure for 1884 is therefore Rs. 23,826.80 instead of Rs. 23,072.18.

MAURITIUS.
—
RODRIGUES.
—

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1884.	1885.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.
23	Maintenance and burial of sick paupers - -	20 50	—
24	Pension, ex-police constables, Morris and Guillaume - - - -	360 46	398 08
25	Arrears of pension, ex-police constable Morris -	—	244 28
26	Maintenance and passage, crew and master "Ann Armytage" - - - -	—	865 89
27	Various petty payments - - - -	90 51	110 81
28	Purchases for Government tug boat "Stella" -	48 26	—
29	Pilot fees, Government schooner "Harmonie" -	200 00	40 00
30	Hire of extra boatmen - - - -	22 25	38 75
31	Travelling expenses, Government medical officer and Civil Commissioner - -	204 00	214 00
32	Various expenses account "Harmonie" - -	289 50	13 00
33	Wages Government farm employés, and sundry expenses - - - -	1,330 86	—
34	Post Office money orders - - - -	950 00	712 27
35	Commission on sale of postage labels - -	6 76	—
36	Maintenance allowance forest ranger, special duty -	15 00	—
37	Allowance as customs officers - - - -	70 00	—
38	Sale price five bags beans sold by S. K. G. for Government debtors - - - -	54 18	—
39	Salaries special constables - - - -	66 40	—
40	Hospital account ord. and hospital diets for patients, &c. - - - -	59 21	98 95
41	Purchase of rice for prisoners and paupers -	72 00	180 00
42	Hire of labourers for Mr. Hobbs (G. L. S.) -	—	63 25
43	Passage of Mr. Wallis and transport of furniture -	—	50 00
44	Passage and maintenance of master and crew, "Success" - - - -	—	469 61
45	Refund of fine D. C. No. 58 of 1884 - - - -	—	50 00
46	Salary acting Government medical officer, Dr. H. Portal - - - -	—	1,300 00
47	House rent for same - - - -	—	60 00
48	Passage Dr. Mifsud and others in <i>re</i> Regina v. Barraut - - - -	—	300 00
49	Passage of Mrs. Wallis and children to Mauritius -	—	60 00
50	Salary, Government farm buildings guardian -	—	120 00
	Total - - - -	23,826 78	20,989 62

The above table does not include payments made in Mauritius or in England on account of this Dependency.

Items 26 and 44 show a total sum of Rs. 1,335.50 paid for the maintenance and passage to Mauritius of the crews of two wrecked English ships, the "Ann Armytage" and the "Success." The amount has in all probability been refunded by the Board of Trade.

Items 46 and 47 show the very large sum of Rs. 1,360 paid to Dr. Portal, as Acting Government Medical Officer. Dr. Mifsud having been summoned to appear as a witness before the Court of Assizes in *re* Regina v. Barraut, was temporarily replaced by Dr. Portal, who was paid at the rate of Rs. 20 per day, and received besides Rs. 30 per mensem as house rent.

Item 48 shows a sum of Rs. 300 paid for the passage to Mauritius of Dr. Mifsud and other witnesses summoned in the above quoted case.

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

These different payments, amounting in all to Rs. 2,995.50, are, of course, very unusual occurrences, and had it not been for them the expenditure of this Island for last year would have shown a much smaller amount.

The payment made under item 25 is explained as follows: the Secretary of State for the Colonies, having reconsidered the amount of pension to which Ex-police Constable Thomas Morris was entitled, came to the conclusion that he should, for the future, receive a higher rate of pension per annum, that is, Rs. 226.85 instead of 170.47. The Civil Commissioner was besides directed to pay Morris the difference between the two rates of pension, to begin from 1st January 1881.

Item 5 shows only a sum of Rs. 833.30 as having been paid to the Roman Catholic priest. The reverend gentleman left Rodrigues in June last year. Since that time I do not know if he formed part of the Rodrigues establishment or not.

Mr. O'Halloran, the Civil Commissioner and Police Magistrate, has, last year, been on leave of absence on half pay, which he drew in England.

III.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Eighty-three cases were tried before the police court during last year.

Before what Court.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons charged or sued.	Number of Persons convicted or against whom judgment was given.	Number of Persons acquitted or with regard to whom cases were nonsuited or otherwise.
Police Court, criminal side -	53	66	52	14
Do. civil side -	29	29	29	7
Do. stipendiary side	1	1	Nil.	1
Total - -	83	96	74	22

One case of attempt at murder was referred to the Court of Assizes—*Regina v. O. Barraut*.

IV.—EDUCATION.

MAURITIUS. The number of pupils attending the Port Mathurin and Gabriel schools for last two years is as follows :—

RODRIGUES.

Port Mathurin School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1884 - - - -	81	63	78 per cent.
1885 - - - -	78	57	73 „

Gabriel School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1884 - - - -	72	58	80 per cent.
1885 - - - -	65	51	78 „

Cost of Port Mathurin School during past Two Years.

Particulars.	1884.	1885.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salary of teacher and sewing mistress -	1,959 96	1,709 92
House rent - - - -	360 00	373 00
Allowance in lieu of servant for school cleaning - - - -	96 00	96 00
Total - - - -	2,415 96	2,178 92
Less school fees received - - -	170 95	142 25
Total cost of school - - -	2,245 01	2,036 67

Cost of Gabriel School during past Two Years.

Particulars.	1884.	1885.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salary of teacher and sewing mistress -	1,299 96	1,178 30
Allowance for school cleaning in lieu of ser- vant - - - -	60 00	60 00
Total - - - -	1,359 96	1,238 30
Less school fees received - - -	6 50	1 00
Total cost of school - - -	1,353 46	1,237 30

Since the month of June of last year Mr. and Mrs. Ambrosine, Government teacher and sewing mistress, Port Mathurin, have left the Island and have been replaced by Mr. and Mrs. Ternel, from the Gabriel School ; Mr. Ternel remaining on the same scale of salary at a maximum of Rs. 1200. Mr. Ternel received his increment of Rs. 100, which brought his pay up to Rs. 1,100 per annum last year.

MAURITIUS.
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—

Mr. and Mrs. Ternel have been replaced at the Gabriel Government School by Mr. and Mrs. Armand. The salary of Mr. Armand is Rs. 720 per annum, half of which is paid here and half in Mauritius. Mr. and Mrs. Armand are on the Rodrigues establishment since March of last year. Mrs. Armand receives Rs. 360 per annum. Mr. Ambrosine received his increment of Rs. 100 last year, bringing his salary up to Rs. 1,700 per annum.

V.—POST OFFICE.

Particulars.	1884.	1885.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Unpaid letters - - -	2 96	7 92
2. Sale of postage labels - - -	90 49	85 62
3. Commission on money orders - - -	20 17	67 23
Total - - -	118 62	160 77

Showing an increase under two of the above headings and a slight decrease on the remaining one.

Money Orders in 1884 and 1885.

Particulars.	1884.	1885.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Drawn on Mauritius - - -	5,452 34	19,176 54
„ Rodrigues - - -	950 00	712 27

Showing an increase of Rs. 13,724.20 on the amount of money orders drawn on Mauritius in 1885, as compared with the previous year, and a decrease of Rs. 237.73 on the amount of money orders drawn on Rodrigues in 1885 as against 1884.

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

Letters and Newspapers despatched and received.

Year.	Received.						Despatched.			
	Letters.			Newspapers.			Letters.			Newspapers and Books.
	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	
1884 -	849	52	901	662	54	716	925	37	962	3
1885 -	735	18	753	226	53	279	927	22	949	Nil

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Sundry repairs to Government properties were executed last year, the most important being the repairing of the premises used as Customs House and Government Boat Shed, which were in a decayed state.

Since last year Government has decided upon building a new bridge across the Port Mathurin River, at the south-west extremity of the village, the old one being in a very bad state. The structure of the bridge is to be prepared at the Public Works Department, Mauritius, and will be sent ready to be fitted up here.

A sum of Rs. 740.03 has been expended last year on works and buildings and repairs (including sanitary), as against Rs. 1,146.24* in the previous year, or a decrease of Rs. 406.21.

VII.—POPULATION.

The population of this Island on the 31st December 1884 consisted of 1,636 souls, and on the 31st December 1885 of 1,687 souls, showing an increase of 51 souls.

Population on 31st December 1884	-	-	1,636
Births in the year 1885	-	-	94
Arrivals in 1885	-	-	51
		-	145
Less deaths in 1885	-	-	29
Departures	-	-	65
		-	94
Increase in 1885	-	-	51
			<u>1,687</u>

There were 7 marriages in 1885 against 19 in 1884.
Still-births *nil* in 1885 against 1 in 1884.

* Instead of Rs. 391.62. *Vide* footnote, p. 143.

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—

Total of Births, Deaths, &c. during past two Years.

Year.	Births.			Deaths.			Arrivals.			Departures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1884 - -	46	45	91	14	15	29	38	5	43	58	12	70
1885 - -	46	48	94	16	13	29	42	9	51	52	13	65

Classification of Population, 1884 and 1885.

Year.	General Population.			Indian Population.			Total.		Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
1884 -	898	715	1,613	20	8	28	918	718	1,636
1885 -	924	746	1,670	14	8	17	938	749	1,687

Classification of Nationalities.

					1884.	1885.
Natives of America	-	-	-	-	1	1
" Africa	-	-	-	-	8	8
" Europe	-	-	-	-	20	4
" India	-	-	-	-	25	17
" Madagascar	-	-	-	-	45	41
" Mauritius	-	-	-	-	206	209
" Réunion	-	-	-	-	2	2
" Rodrigues	-	-	-	-	1,322	1,398
" Seychelles	-	-	-	-	6	6
" Siam	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	-	-	-	-	1,636	1,687

MAURITIUS.
RODRIGUES.

Calling.

Employed in agriculture	-	-	-	880
„ in commerce	-	-	-	7
„ as artisans	-	-	-	13
„ as Government servants	-	-	-	18
„ in fisheries	-	-	-	150
Other callings	-	-	-	130
Unemployed	-	-	-	489
Total	-	-	-	1,687

The latter comprising women, children, and persons of which last eleven are paupers.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinance was passed in Council on the 24th March 1885.

Ordinance 20 of 1884–1885.—To provide for the functions of the Police Magistrate of the Island of Rodrigues in case of the death, incapacity, removal, or absence from that Dependency of the said officer.

IX.—PRISONS AND POLICE.

His Excellency the Governor has notified to the Civil Commissioner that he approved of the views of this latter on the question of the expediency of building new and suitable prisons at Port Mathurin for the accommodation of male and female prisoners, the present ones being worthless in a sanitary point of view, besides having no female ward.

One prisoner escaped last year, but was subsequently arrested.

As usual, the police did duty as prison guards.

Mr. James Wallis, Chief Police Officer, Rodrigues, has been transferred to Mauritius.

X.—ESTABLISHMENT.

Cost of Establishment for past two Ye rs.

Year.			Salaries.		Allowances.		Total.	
			Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1884	-	-	16,969	43	1,594	45	18,563	88
1885	-	-	12,650	98	1,751	50	14,402	48

Showing a decrease of Rs. 4,161.45 as against 1884.

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

XI.—TRADE.

Estimated value of Imports and Exports for the past two Years.

Year.				Imports.		Exports.	
				Rs.	Rs. c.	Rs.	c.
1884	.	.	.	58,902	50	93,784	00
1885	.	.	.	82,308	00	106,116	00

There is an increase of Rs. 23,405.50 in the value of the imports, and of Rs. 12,382 on that of the exports of last year, in comparison with the previous year.

XII.—GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

Table showing number of Patients treated during 1884 and 1885.

Year.	In Patients.			Out-Patients of both sexes.	Grand Total.	Prevailing Diseases among Patients.
	Male.	Female.	Total.			
1884 -	15	2	17	721	738	Pneumonia, leprosy, enteritis, tuberculosis, diarrhoea, cramps, dysentery, tetanus, infantile, bronchitis, peritonitis, fatty degeneration of heart, venereal, hernia, gripe, fever, wound, orchitis, old age and hæpatitis.
1885 -	19	4	23	841	864	

Receipts and Expenditure of Hospital and Dispensary for 1884 and 1885.

Year.				Receipts on account of In-Patients.		Total of Expenditure on account of Hospital.		Cost of Hospital and Dispensary, exclusive of Medicines.	
				Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1884	-	.	.	54	00	8,332	73	8,278	73
1885	-	.	.	53	50	4,488	67	4,430	17

MAURITIUS.

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The above table shows an increase of Rs. 1,151.44 in the amount of expenditure of hospital for the year 1885 compared with 1884. This is due to the fact, already explained, of another Government medical official (Dr. Portal) having been sent here to replace Dr. Mifsud during the absence of this latter, who had been summoned as a witness before the Court of Assizes in *re* Reg. v. Barrant. Dr. Portal drew Rs. 20 per day, plus Rs. 30 per month for house rent. The total sum drawn by him amounted to Rs. 1,360.

A sum of Rs. 360 is paid in Mauritius for the rent of a house used as hospital.

Total cost to Government of each patient both in hospital and at dispensary for past two years :—

					Rs.	c.
1884 -	-	-	-	-	4	44
1885 -	-	-	-	-	5	56

XII.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

At the beginning of March 1885 the barometer went down very low. To all appearances a hurricane was approaching the Island. Very fortunately the cyclone passed at a safe distance, and we escaped its unwished for visit.

In the beginning of May we experienced a very strong *raz-de-marée*.

Mr. James Wallis, Chief Police Officer, who, for a number of years, had occupied the post of Meteorological Observer, was transferred to Mauritius last year, and temporarily replaced by Police Serjeant Aston. The observations made by them have been duly transmitted to Dr. Meldrum.

XII.—SHIPWRECKS AND DISTRESSED SEAMEN.

On the 13th March last year, the master and crew of the British barque "Ann Armytage," 15 men in all, arrived here in two boats. The ship had been abandoned by them eight days before, about 300 miles to the north of Rodrigues; she was then in a sinking condition from the effects of bad weather. The master (Captain Dunsford), the officers and crew were furnished with board and lodging. After a stay of 40 days they were despatched to Mauritius on board the British lugger "Martigaou."

On the 6th May following the British schooner "Success," while laying at anchor in Port Mathurin harbour, was driven ashore by the strength of an unusually powerful "*raz-de-marée*." She was totally lost, and accordingly had to be abandoned. Her distressed crew was furnished with board and lodging at the cheapest rates to be had here, and was despatched to Mauritius by the first opportunity which presented itself. The costs of maintenance and passage to Mauritius of the crew of the two above-named vessels amounted to Rs. 1,335.50.

XIV.—PORT MATHURIN HARBOUR.

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

The Council of Government in Mauritius has voted the necessary funds for providing Port Mathurin harbour with anchors and an anchor lighter.

XV.

H.M. Ship "Bacchante," with Admiral Sir Frederick Richards on board visited this Island in September of last year.

XVI.—GOVERNMENT SCHOONER "HARMONIE."

The "Harmonie" made only one trip last year. She carried to Mauritius the remainder of the teak wood bought here by Government. I understand that she has since been condemned as unseaworthy. This is to be regretted in this sense, that there was good accommodation for passengers on board of that vessel. I am afraid that the same will not be found on board the small luggers which ply between Mauritius and this place.

XVII.—SUNDRY REMARKS.

There were no droughts last year. The crops were good, and I am happy to report that there was no scarcity of food among the inhabitants.

At the close of my report for the year 1884, I pointed out the total lack of anything like good roads here, as being unworthy of a civilized country. I can but repeat it again. Another great misfortune is that regular communications between this place and Mauritius do not exist. During the bad season, that is, from December to April, Rodrigues is literally shut out from the rest of the civilized world. I sincerely hope that the Home Government will do something in the way of changing this state of affairs.

I am eagerly looking forward to the moment when his Excellency the Governor will pay his intended visit to this Dependency. He will then be able to see and to judge for himself. His visit, which will be the great event of this year, will no doubt be fruitful in improvements of all sorts regarding the welfare of the inhabitants of this Island.

A. BOUCHERAT,
Acting Civil Commissioner
and Police Magistrate.

Civil Commissioner's Office,
Rodrigues, 31st May 1886.

No. 9.

MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF CIVIL COMMISSIONER ON THE
SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1885.

The receipts for the year 1885 amounted to Rs. 143,829.89 against Rs. 130,047.74 in 1884, and the expenditure to Rs. 126,297.01 against Rs. 145,774.85 in 1884.

The revenue of 1885 was estimated at Rs. 138,850, and the expenditure at Rs. 124,885.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of imports and exports was :—

					1884.	1885.
					Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports -	-	-	-	-	401,508 56	428,428 87
Specie -	-	-	-	-	27,097 00	66,500 00
Total	-	-	-	-	428,605 56	489,928 87
Exports -	-	-	-	-	370,593 25	305,328 67
Specie -	-	-	-	-	21,582 00	9,423 00
Total	-	-	-	-	392,175 25	314,746 67

SHIPPING.

Sixty-seven vessels have entered Port Victoria in 1885, including mail steamers, with an aggregate of 134,458 tons, as follows :—

	Tons.
8 men of war - - -	19,087
26 mail steamers - - -	102,506
33 merchant vessels - - -	12,865

Total 67 vessels, with an aggregate of - 134,458

against 74 vessels with an aggregate of 125,751 tons in 1884.

Of the men-of-war, 2 are English,
4 „ French,
1 „ Austrian,
1 „ Portuguese

Total 8

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES.

The last census taken was in 1881, and the population, as shown by the returns of that census, was 14,081; 7,179 males and 6,902 females.

Mahe Ward.

The birth-rate per thousand was 36·16 against 36·32 in 1884.

The per-centage of still-births was 2·25 against 1·55 in 1884.

The death-rate was 16·00 against 18·45 in 1884.

The number of marriages was 198 in 1885 against 233 in 1884.

Praslin Ward.

The birth-rate per thousand was 36·00 against 34·50 in 1884.

The per-centage of still-births was 2·00 against 3·50 in 1884.

The death-rate was 16·50 against 16·00 in 1884.

There were 55 marriages against 24 in 1884.

EDUCATION.

There were 21 primary schools, attended by 1,742 children, supported by Government grants-in-aid, against 20 schools, attended by 1,620 children, in 1884, as follows :—

Roman Catholic Mission.

There were in 1885 13 schools with 1,402 pupils against 12 and 1,253 pupils in 1884.

Church of England.

There were 8 schools with 293 pupils in 1885, against 8 schools and 367 pupils in 1884, including those of the Church Missionary Society's school, who are not included in the 293 pupils of 1885.

Church Missionary Society.

There was 1 school with 47 pupils against 1 with 69 pupils in 1884.

The number of children attending grant-in-aid schools in 1885 was 1,742, against 1,628 in 1884, *i.e.*, 122 over that of 1884, or an increase of 7½ per cent. The same amount as in 1884 was voted

MAURITIUS. for grants-in-aid in 1885, viz., Rs. 6,000, which was apportioned as follows, viz. :—
SEYCHELLES.

		Rs.	c.
Roman Catholic Mission	- -	4,543	02
Church of England	- -	1,225	35
Church Missionary Society	- -	231	63
Total	- -	6,000	00

There are a few private schools attended by young children, and none where the advantage of higher education can be obtained.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

The total number of criminal cases entered during 1885 was 425 against 518 in 1884 ; and 322 persons were convicted against 493 in 1884.

There were no appeals or writs of certiorari during the year 1885, and there were none in 1884.

Civil Jurisdiction.

The total number of civil cases entered during 1885 was 153 against 106 in 1884. There were 15 remanets from 1884. Total number of cases on cause list 168, of which 155 heard in 1885 and 13 remained to be heard in 1886. One appeal was entered against a judgment delivered in 1885, and it was dismissed, against nine appeals in 1884, of which two were compromised, five were dismissed, one successful, and one partly successful.

Stipendiary Jurisdiction.

There were 106 cases entered before the Stipendiary Court in 1885, as against 90 in 1884 ; there were 130 persons charged against 103 in 1884 ; 93 were sentenced in 1885, as against 82 in 1884 ; and 37 acquitted as against 21 in 1884. The following is a comparative statement of persons prosecuted and convicted in 1884 and 1885.

There were no appeals or writs of certiorari in 1885, as in 1884.

Engagements and Discharges.

	1884.	1885.
Engagements - - - -	70	90
As labourers - - - -	61	47
As servants - - - -	9	14
Discharges - - - -	82	90

GAOLS.

MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES.

Two hundred and ninety-nine persons were committed to gaol in 1885, against 319 in 1884.

There were 12 persons sentenced to one year or more against 20 in 1884, and 121 persons sentenced to less than one year against 299 in 1884.

There was one charge of murder committed for trial at the assizes (the charge was reduced by the honourable the Procureur General to one of manslaughter), against two cases of murder in 1884.

There were 21 prisoners admitted into hospital in 1885 against 10 in 1884.

There was one death among the prisoners in 1885, and none in 1884.

ECCLIASTICAL.

The number of adherents of the two churches supported by the Government in Seychelles, is not shown separately from those of the other dependencies in the returns of the census taken in 1881.

The following number of ministers were employed in 1885, viz. :—

Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop	-	-	-	-	1
Lay Brothers Capucins	-	-	-	-	4
Lay Brothers Marists	-	-	-	-	5
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny	-	-	-	-	20
					<hr/>
Total					30
					<hr/>

against 45 in 1884.

Church of England.

Civil Chaplain	-	-	-	-	1
Minister Praslin Ward	-	-	-	-	1
Evangelists and Catechists	-	-	-	-	11
					<hr/>
Total					13
					<hr/>

against 12 in 1884.

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

Roman Catholic.

Churches (permanent)	-	-	-	8
Churches (temporary)	-	-	-	5
Chapels	-	-	-	3
				<hr/>
Total				16
				<hr/>

against 16 in 1884.

MAURITIUS.
SEYCHELLES.

Church of England.

Churches	-	-	-	-	-	3
Chapels (used also as schools)	-	-	-	-	-	7
Total						<u>10</u>

against 11 in 1884.

The expenses incurred by the Government in 1885 for the Ecclesiastical establishments were Rs. 8,749.92 against Rs. 8,749.92 in 1884, and the amount voted in the estimates for 1885 was the same as in 1884, viz. :

				Rs.
Church of England	-	-	-	3,750
Roman Catholic Church	-	-	-	5,000
				<u>8,750</u>

HOSPITALS.

The number of persons treated in the Civil Hospital in 1885 was 107 against 148 in 1884, as follows :—

	1884.	1885.
Paupers - - - - -	106	71
Prisoners - - - - -	10	24
Paying persons - - - - -	32	12
Total - - - - -	148	107

Of these 107 persons—

63 were discharged as cured.

19 „ „ „ relieved.

2 „ „ „ unrelieved.

12 died.

11 remained in hospital at the end of the year.

Total 107

There were in 1885 268 persons vaccinated at the Public Hospital, and 46 at the outlying stations.

MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES.

DISPENSARY.

The number of persons who applied for medicines, &c., at the Public Dispensary is 7,643 in 1885, against 5,894 in 1884.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The following works have been performed last year :—

General Repairs.

The old Court House has been raised 10 feet from the ground, and placed on solid masonry walls and re-shingled. A cell has been re-constructed and made new in the prison yard. It measures 15 feet by 12 feet.

A shed 50 feet by 13 feet has been constructed, and is now used for the workshop of the Public Works Department.

Different repairs of more or less importance have been made to the Public Hospital and other public buildings.

Lighthouse, Denis Island.

The repairs completed this year were begun in 1885.

Port Department.

The outer buoy has been removed and a new one has been made in teak, measuring 8 feet square and put in place. The light placed on this buoy on the arrival of the mail steamers is 10 feet above sea-level and there is also a bell on the top of the buoy as a signal when the buoy is not lighted.

Three boats have been repaired.

Roads and Bridges.

Some important repairs have been made to the old roads and 2,620 feet of new roads have been made.

Twenty-two bridges have been repaired, 19 have been pulled down and re-constructed and 12 new ones have been built.

Nine "chaussées" have been constructed and two new drainings made in masonry.

MAURITIUS.**SURVEY BRANCH.****SEYCHELLES.**

A plot of ground at "L'Enforcement de la Grand' Anse" has been surveyed in 1885, by Mr. Land Surveyor Butler, appointed for that special purpose.

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

The forests and rivers have been well protected. Last year Mr. Button, the Conservator of Crown Lands, in his annual report, states that he has planted 20,000 seeds of "Takamaka," "Bois de table," and "Capucin," in the Government forests.

The police have continued throughout the year 1885 to act as forest rangers.

AGRICULTURE.

The same difficulties with regard to labour as were reported by me last year have continued to be experienced by the planters in general during the year 1885, and it is to be feared that year after year it will become more and more difficult to procure labourers under written contracts of service on estates. There were 61 engagements of labourers in 1884 and only 47 in 1885. Under the head of "habitual idleness" one conviction is shown in 1884 against 16 in 1885. Of the "loafers," men failing to produce their papers, there were 29 convictions in 1884 against 39 in 1885.

Cocoa nut plantations in general have suffered as much in 1885 as during the preceding year from the ravages of insects.

Coffee plantations have been abandoned almost all over the Island, as it has not been found possible to stamp out the disease (leaf disease).

The cultivation of nutmegs has progressed but little; the seeds sent out from Mauritius have been planted with great care, but few indeed have germinated.

The cultivation of vanilla and cacao has increased.

The quantity of vanilla exported was, however, less in 1885 than in 1884. The exports of cacao in 1885 far exceeded those of 1884. Most of cacao plantations are as yet young, and only few of them are in bearing.

LEGISLATION.

The following regulations were passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners during the past year.

No. 1 of 1885.—“Estimates for 1885” passed 12.2.85.

MAURITIUS.

No. 2 of 1885.—“To amend and consolidate the laws concerning Quarantine in the Seychelles Islands” passed 3rd December 1885 (not yet confirmed).

SEYCHELLES.

Ordinance No. 27 of 1884-85.—“To abolish imprisonment for costs in Criminal Matters,” passed 8th October 1885.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following statements show the assets and liabilities of this Dependency on the 31st December 1884 and 31st December 1885 respectively :—

Statement showing the Liabilities and Assets of the Government of Seychelles on 31st December 1884.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	Rs.	c.		Rs.	c.
Due to the Mauritius Government	- 72,538	76	Cash on hand—		
„ for money orders	- 18,535	05	In the vault	- 10,500	00
„ to Dr. Brooks for arrears of pension	5,114	37	With the collector	- 3,006	34
„ the police reward fund	- 1,009	02	Balance against assets	- 90,651	92
„ liberated Africans, wages deposited	- 2,129	36			
„ Curatelle, amount of deposits	- 4,231	70			
„ mission schools, arrears of grant	- 600	00			
Total	- 104,158	26	Total	- 104,158	26

Audited.

(Signed) JAMES BRODIE,
Audit Examiner.

June 10, 1886.

(Signed) F. HODOUL,
Acting Collector of Dues
and Taxes.

MAURITIUS.
SEYCHELLES.

Statement showing the Liabilities and Assets of the Government of Seychelles on 31st December 1885.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	Rs.	c.		Rs.	c.
Due to the Mauritius Government	- 80,888	49	Cash on hand in the vault	- 37,940	00
„ for money orders	- 16,947	18	With the collector	- 4,085	00
„ to Dr. Brooks, arrears of pension	- 2,045	75	Balance against assets	- 64,108	00
„ to the police reward fund	- 745	02			
„ to liberated Africans, wages deposited	- 2,129	86			
„ Curatelle amount of deposits	- 3,887	88			
Total	- 106,183	68	Total	- 106,183	68

Audited.

(Signed) JAMES BRODIE,
Audit Examiner.

June 10, 1886.

(Signed) F. HODOUL,
Acting Collector of Dues
and Taxes.

(Signed) GEO. HOLLIER GRIFFITHS,
Acting Chief Civil Commissioner.

Government House, Seychelles,
11th June 1886.

BAHAMAS.**BAHAMAS.**

No. 10.

Governor H. A. BLAKE, to the Right Hon. Sir
H. T. HOLLAND, BART., G.C.M.G., M.P.

Government House, Nassau,

March 15, 1887.

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the Blue Book for 1886.

2. Before giving the statistical particulars of the various subjects of which the Blue Book is composed, I think it may be well to give some more definite idea of the character of the islands and the composition of the soil than has hitherto been attempted. For the scientific information I am indebted to the labours of Mr. John Gardiner, B.Sc., London, Associate of Owens College, Manchester, a gentleman whose services I engaged for two years, in connexion with the Board of Agriculture, and whose labours have resulted in valuable reports upon our soils and products.

General Description.

3. The Bahamas are a group of low islands, formed of coral, sand, and shells, consolidated into rock by the action of wind and water. The rock is in some places soft and friable, in others hard and flinty; but its chemical composition is the same throughout. It is formed by the action of rain water dissolving lime from the upper layers of blown sand and shells, and binding the lower with infiltrated carbonate of lime.

Soils.—White.

4. There are three distinctive soils of the Bahamas, white, black, and red. The white soil is composed of calcareous sand, with a certain proportion of organic matter. It is suitable, when fertilizers are used, for the growth of potatoes and other vegetables.

Black Soil.

5. The black soil is mainly vegetable mould, and is very fertile. It is not usually deep, except in "Banana holes," or cavities, occurring everywhere in the formation of these islands, in which there is sometimes considerable accumulation.

BAHAMAS.

Red Soil.

6. The red earth closely resembles that of the Bermudas in its composition. It contains a large proportion of oxide of iron. It is the most important and fertile of our soils, and in it the pine-apples grow best. It occurs in patches, larger or smaller, in all the islands of the group, especially in Eleuthera and Cat Island, where thousands of acres of the red soil are found. I have seen a layer of it under a superincumbent layer of the solid rock. Its origin is not known, but it is unlikely that it has been upheaved from the bed of the ocean, for no red soil is found either on the banks or in the soundings taken in the surrounding deep sea. It is in some places 5 feet deep, in others a thin layer. Where deep deposits are found there are no stones mixed with the soil. I have had analyses made of the different soils, which will appear under the head of "Agriculture, &c."

General description.

7. These tables give a fair idea of the soils, but to one seeking information about the Colony they would not afford sufficient guidance. While the general aspect of the islands is the same, there are, in the 600 miles through which the islands stretch, from N.W. to S.E., great diversity of conditions. The Great and Little Bahama banks rise very abruptly from ocean depths, varying from 500 fathoms to the westward to 2,000 fathoms on the eastern borders. They represent an irregular oval from north-west to south-east. The flat banks are covered by from 2 to 4 fathoms, and are deeply indented by the narrow "Tongue of Ocean" piercing the bank from the north for 150 miles, and Exuma Sound, which runs parallel with the "Tongue of Ocean," for 100 miles, but with its entrance from the south-east. Each of these submarine valleys is from 800 to 1,000 fathoms deep. The edges of the banks, which form about 2,100 miles of sea-coast, are fringed with islands, or "cays," generally on the eastward or windward edges, varying in size from Andros, 100 miles long by 20 to 40 miles wide, to mere rocks. The principal fruit-growing islands of Abaco, Cat Island, Eleuthera, and Long Island are long strips from 50 to 90 miles in length, and varying in width from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 miles. The banks cover an area of about 43,000 square miles, of which about 4,400 square miles are over water. Through the openings in this fringe of cays and islands the tide flows and ebbs with a speed of three to five knots. The influence of the ebb and flow is felt for a considerable distance, and, added to other local currents unexplained, and varying in direction and velocity with changes of the moon and seasons, makes the Bahama banks peculiarly dangerous to mariners.

8. Separated from the banks, the other islands of the Archipelago are Watlings (the Guanahani of Columbus) Rum Cay, Conception, Samana, the Crooked island group, Mayaguana, and

Great and Little Inagua. They rise abruptly from a depth of over 2,600 fathoms, thus representing the flat tops of precipitous mountains 12,000 feet high.

BAHAMAS.
—

Landfall of Columbus.

9. It may be of interest, now that the fourth centenary of the discovery of this hemisphere by Columbus approaches, to state, in connexion with the identity of Guanahani or San Salvador, a question into which I have made careful investigation, that in the second Borgian map, published by Diego Ribero in 1529, and lent by the Pope to the late Colonial and Indian Exhibition, the Island of "Guanahani," is placed in the relative position of Watlinge, and the Long Island in the map in the position of Cat Island, which is claimed by Washington Irving as San Salvador, is named *Cigato*. Remembering that the Spanish "Gato" is "Cat," I think it leaves little doubt as to the derivation of the name Cat Island.

Lucayan Remains.

10. I have found but few traces of the original inhabitants. Some curiously carved wooden stools, discovered in caves, a small quantity of fragments of rude pottery from Andros, a small "totem," or breast idol from Birnini, and specimens of stone hatchets and chisels from almost every island. They are made of hard polished grey or green stone, and are identical in material and make with the stone "celts" found in Ireland.

Difference of Flora. Physique of People.

11. Although the formation, soil, and climate of all the islands are the same, there is a certain amount of difference in the flora. In Abaco, Bahama, Andros, and New Providence there are large tracts of pine barren. These are the only islands on which pine forests are found. Formerly there was on the other islands some large and valuable timber. This has now been all cut away to their great detriment, as the rainfall has diminished. The islands originally settled by loyalist refugees from America after the War of Independence were Abaco, Eleuthera, and Long Island, and that the climate is suitable for European working men is evident from the fine physique of their descendants, which is equal to that of the working populations of England and Ireland.

Revenue.

12. The net revenue collected was 43,920*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, being less by 1,545*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* than the revenue of 1885. The expenditure was 44,629*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, or 133*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* less than the expenditure of 1885.

BAHAMAS.*Decrease explained.*

13. The decrease of the revenue is due partly to a reduction in the import of provisions, in consequence of plentiful food crops at home; partly to a contraction of business during the present crisis, when, in addition to the depression shared by other countries, a considerable number of those engaged in commerce are paying off the debts contracted to the late public bank, while the foreign correspondents are inclined to reduce the amount of their credits pending the final settlement of the home difficulties. There is a decrease in the Post Office revenue of 225*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*

Crown Land Revenue.

14. The Crown Land revenue has for some years been steadily decreasing. The amount realized from all sources was but 536*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, while the expenditure was 1,025*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* There is no reason why this fund should not increase, as many thousands of acres of Crown land are now in the unauthorised occupation of squatters. I have hopes that the arrangements made by me for the collection of the money due by these people will effect an appreciable increase of the Crown land revenue for the current year. The balance carried over to credit is 572*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*

Salt Pond Revenue.

15. The Salt Pond revenue, including the balance of 354*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* at the beginning of 1886, was 456*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenditure 66*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* The balance to the credit of the fund is 390*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

16. The Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which began the year with a balance of 7,071*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* to its credit, expended 3,087*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, while the income amounted to but 787*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* The balance to the credit of the fund is 4,770*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* In two years this fund will have been exhausted, when the pensions to widows and orphans, for the payment of which the Colony is liable, will then become a charge on the general revenues of the Colony.

Post Office Savings Bank.

17. The Post Office Savings Bank, which opened in February, received deposits to the amount of 3,020*l.* Of this sum 2,000*l.* was remitted to the Crown Agents for investment, 379*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* was withdrawn, and 640*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* remains for transmission to England to be invested in accordance with the regulations framed under the Savings Bank Act.

*Public Debt.***BAHAMAS.**

18. The public debt is 83,126*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* It is in debentures bearing interest at 4½ per cent. and 5 per cent. The interest on the debt is, by the Colonial Act 13th Vict. c. 6, a first charge upon the revenues of the Colony.

Legislature.

19. There were 20 Acts of Legislature passed, of which the most important was an Act for Closing the Public Bank, an institution that had been in existence for over 50 years, at an aggregate loss to the Colony of over 60,000*l.* The House of Assembly consists of 29 members. The qualification of the elector is that he shall be 21 years of age, that he shall have resided within the Colony for 12 months previous to the election, and that he has been for six months either bonâ fide owner of land in fee simple to the value of 5*l.* or upwards, or has been for that time a housekeeper, occupying a house of the annual value of 2*l.* 8*s.* in New Providence, or in an out island of 1*l.* 4*s.* The qualification of the representative is that he be a born or naturalized British subject, who has resided in the Colony for 12 months, and who has an estate, real or personal, to the value of 200*l.* The Legislature usually meets in February, and the average duration of the session is six weeks. The number of voters at the last general election was 5,811.

Legislative Council.

20. The Legislative Council consists of nine members, appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Governor.

Population.

21. The population of the Colony is 47,278. No distinction is made in registering the white and coloured population. The males and females are almost equally divided. There is an average excess of 750 births over deaths annually.

Savings Banks, &c.

22. There are thirteen (13) branches of the Post Office Savings Bank, in which there are 344 depositors. There are 22 friendly societies, with a membership of 3,144. These societies are burial and sick societies, and are of material benefit to the people. The number of paupers in the Colony, outside the New Providence Asylum, is 99.

BAHAMAS.*Education*

23. There are 33 schools established by the Board of Education. The total expense for 1886 being 2,230*l.* 18*s.* The number of scholars on the books was 3,813. Besides the Board schools, grants in aid amounting to 127*l.* were made to 10 schools established in smaller villagee, the number of whose scholars was 866. Adding together all the expenses borne by the Board of Education, the cost per child on the roster was 13*s.* 3*d.* There is much difficulty in procuring trained teachers, and those in the employment of the Board are much below the average British teacher in attainments. Scattered as are the settlements in the Colony, but a small proportion of the children can attend school, and as 7 per cent. of the revenue is spent on education, I do not see any hope of an increased grant to open new schools.

Private Schools.

24. Besides the Board schools, there are 25 schools established by the Church of England in places where no public school exists. There is an attendance of 1,627 scholars. There are also in the Colony 40 private schools, with an attendance of 712.

Newspapers.

25. There are two newspapers the "Nassau Guardian," with a circulation of 350, and the "Nassau Times," with a circulation of 150.

Exchange, &c.

26. The rate of exchange is from par to 1 per cent. on New York, from 2 per cent. to 3 per cent. on London. The currency is British. The British gold coins are, however, rapidly withdrawn from circulation for exchange or for export to the United States, where they are at a small premium. The American silver dollar, half dollar, and quarter dollar respectively are taken here at 4*s.*, 2*s.*, and 1*s.* sterling, so that they are rapidly returned to the United states, where they fetch a premium of 4 per cent. By Her Majesty's Proclamation of 19 February 1853 the value of the United States gold coin was fixed as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
The double eagle	-	-	-	4	2 0
„ eagle	-	-	-	2	1 0
„ half eagle	-	-	-	1	0 6
„ quarter eagle	-	-	-	0	10 3
„ gold dollar	-	-	-	0	4 1

But these coins are current in the Colony at the full nominal value.

There are no data upon which to form an opinion as to the amount of coin in circulation. There is no paper currency. Accounts are kept in sterling.

BAHAMAS.

Weights and Measures.

27. The legal weights and measures are the old Winchester weights and measures of England; but by the Act of Assembly 36 Vict. cap. 8 all import duties are levied by the Imperial standard.

Imports.

28. The total amount of imports was 189,410*l.*, of which the value of imports from the United Kingdom was 30,935*l.*; from British Colonies 2,092*l.*; and from foreign countries 156,583*l.* The amount shows a net decrease from that of the year 1885 of 21,066*l.*, putting aside a large sum in specie then imported for the payment of bank debts. Of this sum 10,926*l.* is the decrease in value of food stuffs imported, and 2,831*l.* decrease in value of ale, wine, and spirits.

Exports.

29. The total value of exports was 150,390*l.* The exports to the United Kingdom being 15,486*l.*; to British Colonies 2,202*l.*, and to foreign countries 132,702*l.* These amounts include exports of produce other than that of the Colony. The export of Colonial produce was to the value of 104,275*l.*, being a decrease from that of 1885 of 20,655*l.* This sum is made up almost entirely by the decrease in value of fruits exported of 11,793*l.*, and of sponge to the amount of 7,937*l.* The export of cotton produced in the Colony was double the amount of the year 1885, and although the increase of 38,967 lbs. is not very great, it is a satisfactory indication of the resumption of the cultivation of cotton.

Shipping.

30. The following is the result of the shipping returns:—

Sailing Ships Entered.

—	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	262	23,638	1,877
In ballast - - -	94	9,530	622
Total - - -	356	33,168	2,499

BAHAMAS.*Sailing Ships Cleared.*

—	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	314	29,605	2,133
In ballast - - -	51	3,662	321
Total - - -	365	33,267	2,454

Steam Ships Entered.

—	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	64	67,141	2,431
In ballast - - -	3	679	61
Total - - -	67	67,820	2,492

Steam Ships Cleared.

—	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews
With cargoes - - -	69	74,774	2,722
In ballast - - -	4	967	76
Total - - -	73	75,741	2,798

Agriculture.

31. At present it may be stated broadly that the only crop systematically grown in the Colony is the pine-apple. All other crops, such as Indian corn and guinea corn, the sweet potato, yam, ground nuts, peas and beans, and crops generally known as "ground crops," are planted indiscriminately in patches larger or smaller by the owners or persons who occupy land on the share system, one-third to one-half the produce being the owner's share. However, as the cultivators consider that the corn crops only ought to be considered as shareable with the owner, all ground provisions being the property of the cultivator, the land so held is practically valueless, save where pine-apples can be raised, as they are sometimes, on the share system.

Analysis of Soil.

BAHAMAS.

32. Yet the soil is capable of producing, with proper cultivation, excellent crops of everything grown in Florida. I give here analyses of the different soils, white, black, and red, showing in one column the analysis of the productive soil, in the other the analysis of soil from the same locality that has been exhausted by constant cropping without being manured, until it has ceased to be productive. The crops grown in the red soils analysed have been pine-apple. I was anxious to see what constituents were exhausted from the soil in the growth of that crop.

Analysis of White Soil from Grand Bahama.

Chemical Constituents.	Productive.	Exhausted.
Organic matter, salts of ammonia and nitrates	7·464	1·219
Iron and alumina - - - -	Traces.	Traces.
Carbonate of lime - - - -	84·379	89·887
Magnesia - - - - -	4·230	2·840
Potash - - - - -	·057	Traces.
Soda - - - - -	1·872	3·165
Sulphuric acid - - - -	Traces.	Traces.
Phosphoric acid - - - -	·946	Traces.
Chlorine - - - - -	Traces.	Traces.
Silica - - - - -	·128	1·253
Loss - - - - -	·924	2·136
	100·000	100·000

Analysis of Black Soil from Watlings.

Chemical Constituents.	Productive.	Exhausted.
Organic matter, salts of ammonia and other nitrates.	55·407	33·993
Iron and alumina - - - -	2·314	6·537
Carbonate of lime - - - -	27·372	36·850
Magnesia - - - - -	5·437	7·812
Potash - - - - -	1·693	Traces.
Soda - - - - -	·945	2·394
Sulphuric acid - - - -	·036	Traces.
Phosphoric acid - - - -	·762	Traces.
Chlorine - - - - -	Traces.	Traces.
Silica - - - - -	2·365	7·319
Loss - - - - -	3·669	5·095
	100·000	100·000

BAHAMAS.

*Analyses of Red Soils.**a. productive ; b. exhausted.*

Chemical Constituents.	Governors Harbour.		Harbour Island.		Cat Island.		Rum Cay.	
	a.	b.	a.	b.	a.	b.	a.	b.
Organic matter, salts of ammonia, and nitrates -	28·263	15·732	30·294	19·351	29·913	21·630	31·831	20·506
Iron and alumina -	21·372	35·180	24·217	37·016	19·765	32·106	16·725	29·673
Carbonate of lime -	31·138	28·273	27·973	23·913	35·136	26·473	24·034	30·421
Magnesia -	5·691	3·261	4·872	3·187	2·369	2·163	3·879	1·518
Potaash -	·356	Trace.	·373	Trace.	·311	Trace.	·296	Trace.
Soda -	·987	·628	·856	·715	1·364	·973	1·176	·835
Sulphuric acid -	·062	Trace.	·062	Trace.	·076	Trace.	·045	Trace.
Phosphoric acid -	·726	Trace.	·655	Trace.	·775	Trace.	·713	Trace.
Chlorine -	Traces in combination with soda as common salt.							
Silica -	3·174	9·875	2·958	8·623	2·189	8·138	3·679	7·921
Loss -	8·341	7·061	7·720	7·195	8·072	8·517	8·622	9·124
	100·000	100·000	100·000	100·000	100·000	100·000	100·000	100·000

34. The difficulty of which complaints are made by persons engaged in the cultivation of crops is that of labour. The manumission of slaves was followed for a time by a complete discontinuance of the cultivation of cotton. The freed slaves either settled on the properties of their late masters on the share system, or squatted upon the surrounding Crown lands. The result in each case was the same. All co-operation of labour ceased, and each family devoted themselves to the continuance of the small cultivations of provisions practised while slavery existed. This system supplies food and sufficient money in favourable years for their modest wants; and the low rate of wages that obtains in the Colony is not sufficient to attract the people to steady labour for hire. The average rate of wages is from 1s. 3d. to 2s. per day. Domestic servants receive from 10s. to 2l. per month, without food; tradesmen from 3s. to 5s. per day.

35. I cannot say that I perceive any actual improvement in agriculture. I have been for some time impressing upon them the necessity of cultivating products less perishable than the precarious fruit crops. There are indications that my advice will be adopted to some extent, as cocoa nuts are being extensively planted, the cultivation of cotton is being extended, and the *Agave Americana* is also being planted. The supplementing of the fruit crops by these products will benefit the Colony. Unfortunately there is no

capital available for investment in agriculture, and all these things must be grown to a large extent to be really remunerative.

36. There are no mines or manufactories, nor is there any fishery for export.

37. Grants were made of 998 acres in 1886. There are now granted 421,173 acres and 1,000,574 remain ungranted. Of this land about one-half is available for cultivation.

Prisons.

38. The total number of prisoners committed during the year was 320, as against 351 committed in 1885. The daily average number of prisoners was 44·06, as against 53·33 in 1885. The prison is admirably constructed. Remission of sentence is accomplished under the mark system.

Criminal Statistics.

39. There were 1,798 offences reported to police and magistrates, the number in 1885 being 2,185. Of these cases 352 were discharged for want of evidence, 423 were dismissed on the merits, 995 were summarily convicted, and 28 were committed for trial in the Superior Courts. Of these 28 cases 17 were convicted, one was found insane, and the remainder acquitted.

Hospital and Asylum.

40. The New Providence Asylum comprises an almshouse, hospital, and lunatic asylum. In the hospital portion there are 15 wards containing 76 beds. The diseases treated are of the ordinary kind. There has been no cases of fever or small-pox. The number of cases treated is 292. Of deaths 70. Of this number 21 died of phthisis, a disease which is peculiarly fatal to the black and coloured people, and 15 of old age. The very high death rate is accounted for by the fact that patients rarely seek admission to the hospital until "bush" medicines and other remedies have failed. There were six lunatics admitted to the asylum, two were discharged, and four died. In every case of death in the Lunatic Asylum an inquest was held. The average number of inmates was 17. The Lunatic Asylum has none of the requisites now considered necessary for such an institution. It is, fortunately, in a most healthy situation. The New Providence Asylum is supported by annual grant from the Legislature.

Meteorology

41. The rainfall for 1886 was 45·17 inches, of this 9·49 fell in August, while the lowest was 0·23, in December. The rainfall for January, February, and March was 3·94 inches; April, May, and

BAHAMAS. June, 11·77 inches; July, August, and September, 21·85 inches; and October, November, and December, 7·61 inches.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. Holland, Bart.
&c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

**BRITISH
HONDURAS.**

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 11.

Administrator HENRY FOWLER to the Right Hon. Sir
H. T. HOLLAND, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

Government House, Belize,
April 11, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1886, and to report thereon as follows:—

2. *Taxes, Duties, &c.*

The *ad valorem* duties were raised $2\frac{1}{2}$ per centum under Ordinance No. 11 of 1886, and the excise duty on rum was levied on the proof in lieu of the liquid gallon, with the result that this duty was also increased. The tariff was altered, as the heavy fall in the value of silver “rendered this adjustment of the duty on *ad valorem* “goods absolutely necessary, as the merchants do not pay on the “sterling value, computed at five dollars of the depreciated “currency of this Colony to the £ sterling.”

The change in levying the excise duty from \$1.25 per liquid gallon to \$1 per proof gallon was made to meet the views expressed by the Secretary of State.

3. *Fees, &c.*

These are the same as for the year 1885, except the market and slaughter fees were readjusted.

4. *Revenue.*

The total revenue exceeded the estimate by seven thousand six hundred and six dollars and ninety-three cents (\$7,606.93). The items calling for comment are, the customs receipts, which reached seven thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars and nine cents (\$7,975.09), beyond the amount estimated, this was owing to the increase in the rates of duties at the end of 1886, and the alteration made in the tariff at the end of 1885. These latter were made to meet the recommendations of the Royal Com-

mission appointed in 1882 to inquire into the public revenues of certain of the West Indian Islands.

The Commissioners suggested making the rates of duties specific where the circumstances of the trade allowed of it in lieu of an *ad valorem* duty. This change increased the rates of duty to a considerable extent, otherwise the revenue would have shown a falling off, caused by the depression in trade that existed in the Colony during the year.

The land tax was increased by the levying of an additional rate of 2 per cent. on property in Belize to provide for the cost of the maintenance of the fire brigade in that town.

The land revenue was augmented by extra receipts for licenses to cut mahogany trees on Crown lands from persons who embarked in the timber trade.

The readjustment of the port and harbour dues affected this source of revenue, the tonnage due of 62½ cents per ton, was abolished, entailing a loss of some ten thousand dollars. Light dues were exacted from steamers, hitherto free, the same as from sailing vessels (12½ cents per ton) which increased these dues some three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500).

5. *Expenditure.*

The expenditure exceeded the estimate by forty-nine thousand two hundred and seventy-nine dollars and eighty-four cents (\$49,279.84), and the revenue by forty thousand nine hundred and sixty-six dollars and thirty-four cents (\$40,966.34). This excess is principally made up of an increased expenditure on the following votes beyond the amounts provided for the service:—

			\$	c.
Police and military	-	-	5,462	35
Drawbacks and refunds of duties	-	-	3,389	21
Lighthouses	-	-	10,916	66
Miscellaneous services	-	-	33,043	52
Works and buildings	-	-	4,672	25
			<hr/> 57,483	<hr/> 99

Amounts were unexpended on the following votes as follows:—

				\$	c.
Interests	-	-	-	7,050	02
Mails	-	-	-	5,825	43
				<hr/> 12,875	<hr/> 45

deducting the one from the other, the result is some forty-five thousand dollars, \$45,000, in round figures, and other smaller differences make up the total excess expenditure of forty-nine thousand two hundred and seventy-nine dollars and eighty-four cents (\$49,279.84).

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New lights were procured for places along the coast, and the overdraft (\$33,043.52) on miscellaneous services comprises chiefly the cost of—

	\$	c.
Remittances - - -	13,468	77
Maintenance of fire department - -	4,771	18
Survey of boundary - -	9,148	97
Recruiting constabulary, Barbados -	3,555	66
Forestry inspection - -	1,138	26
Exploration of minerals - -	987	00
	<u>33,069</u>	<u>84</u>

6. Comparative Yearly Statement.

The revenue and expenditure compared with previous years are as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	\$ c.	\$ c.
1885 - - - - -	261,229 18	316,175 99
1886 - - - - -	271,806 93	312,773 27

The differences were provided for by previous balances in the Treasury.

7. Local Revenues.

An Ordinance, No. 12 of 1886 was passed, enabling the tax on lands and houses in certain towns in the Colony to be raised from the annual rate of 3 per. cent. to one not exceeding 6, and appropriating this as well as other certain local revenues for local purposes. This constitutes a new departure in the fiscal arrangements of the Colony, for hitherto all taxes have been treated as general revenue and appropriated for general purposes. A local fund for the three chief towns is established, and it is proposed to form a board for the town of Belize, half the members of which are to be nominated and half elected to manage the fund. These revenues and disbursements will be kept separate in future years.

8. Public Debt.

A sum of fifty-five thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$55,750) was raised in the Colony under Ordinance No. 13 of 1885, authorising a loan of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to provide for the cost of carrying out the improve-

ments in the town and harbour of Belize, recommended by Baron Siccama, C.E. The remaining portion of the loan, with an additional sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) will be raised in England, as provided by Ordinance No. 1 of 1887, as the amount was not forthcoming in the Colony. The ordinary rate of interest prevailing is 10 per cent. This is preferred to the lower, though perhaps more secure, rate offered by the Government, but the extent of capital available in the Colony is inconsiderable.

This loan bears 5 per cent. interest, and will be repaid in 30 years by means of a sinking fund. A sum equal to 1 per cent. on the total amount of the loan is to be appropriated half-yearly out of the general revenues of the Colony, and remitted to the Crown Agents to be invested in securities of the Imperial or Colonial Governments.

9. *Military Expenditure.*

The Colony pays an annual contribution of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) towards the maintenance of a second company of Imperial troops, but this payment ceased at the end of the year on the withdrawal of one company of troops from the Colony. The Colony still owes the War Office a sum of eighty-six thousand six hundred and sixty-five dollars and ninety cents (\$86,665.90) on which an interest of 4 per cent. is paid, but this debt as promised will be cancelled on the withdrawal of all the Imperial troops which is at present arranged to take place not later than March 1888. The cost to the Imperial Government for maintaining troops in the Colony is returned for 1886 at fifty-seven thousand five hundred and two dollars and seventy-three cents (\$57,502.73), but the average annual cost is stated to be sixteen thousand two hundred and five pounds (16,205*l*.)

A constabulary force is being organised to take the place of the military and existing police.

10. *Public Works.*

A new iron light-house was erected on the northern cays with a flashing light, and port lights for some of the settlements on the coast were procured but were not erected, as part of the fittings were jettisoned in transport.

A new iron market was provided for the town of Corosal.

A portion of the sanitary improvements to the town and harbour of Belize were carried out during the year; the two canals were dug out and concrete walls erected along their sides.

A new branch road was begun to be made in the Toledo settlement, but general repairs and maintenance absorbed most of the funds voted for the purpose.

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11. *Legislation.*

There were 13 Ordinances passed during 1886, but the only ones that it seems necessary to comment upon here, are—

The Land Surveyors Ordinance, No. 3.

The Crown Lands Ordinance, No. 4.

The Belize Improvement Ordinance, No. 10.

No. 3 provides for land surveyors being duly qualified to act as such. Hitherto the mode of the surveying, and the qualifications required of surveyors, and the provisions for enabling them to qualify were considered unsatisfactory.

The Ordinance, it is held, does not contain sufficient authority for defining a mode of survey, but only for plans of a survey, hence an amendment seems necessary.

No. 4. The principal difference between the new Ordinance for the management of the Crown lands and the previous law on the subject (1879) is, (1) that a system of registration of titles is provided in lieu of formal grants and (2) improvements are required before a title to the land is given.

The price of Crown lands has been doubled in the first instance, but a moiety is returned to the purchaser on completion of the requisite improvements.

The policy of the former law was to encourage settlers to buy lands instead of squatting on them without licence; the present Ordinance places restrictions on the indiscriminate sale of Crown lands and land is only sold on condition of actual occupation (three years) or improvement to the extent of \$4.00 an acre, so that land jobbing should be reduced to a minimum, and settlement or cultivation secured.

The sales of Crown land since the passing of the Ordinance in 1879 have realised as follows, representing a sale during a period of seven years of about 17,000 acres at \$1.00 per acre. In one instance \$2.50 was charged for a tract (950 acres), as mahogany trees were supposed to be growing on it, and some improved land was sold at higher rates.

				\$
1880	-	-	-	2,717
1881	-	-	-	3,487
1882	-	-	-	6,082
1883	-	-	-	2,952
1884	-	-	-	2,140
1885	-	-	-	1,936
1886	-	-	-	854
				<hr/>
				20,178
				<hr/>

Those restrictions are considered conducive to the opening up of the Colony and extension of the agricultural interests, but where land is of so little value as in this part of the world, and surrounding states supply land for the mere occupation of it, some

do not anticipate these results, but they will ensure the land, if sold, being occupied, and will enhance the value of private lands in the Colony.

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No. 10 makes provision for carrying out a scheme of improvement for the town and harbour of Belize, recommended by Baron Siccama, C.E., in 1880, viz., to fill up low-lying places with dredgings from the bar at the entrance of the harbour which is to be deepened from 3 to 10 feet.

12. *Political Franchise.*

There is none.

13. *Council and Assembly.*

The legislature consists of a Council only, the members of which are nominated by the Crown. An additional unofficial member was added to the Council raising the number to five.

Mr. Brodie was appointed as such and Mr. B. Fairweather was appointed in the place of Mr. Darby who resigned.

14. *Civil Establishment.*

Chief Justice Sheriff was offered and accepted a puisne judgeship in the Straits Settlements and Mr. Goodman, Attorney General, was promoted to be Chief Justice, and Mr. Hoffmeister was appointed Attorney General.

Mr. Miller was appointed assistant Surveyor General in place of Mr. Gordon Allan, who succeeded Mr. Griffiths as Surveyor General on the latter's retirement at the commencement of the year.

Several officers were absent on leave during portions of the year. The Governor, the private secretary, Colonial engineer, Colonial surgeon, clerk of courts, district magistrates of Belize and Toledo, and temporary appointments were made to fill the vacancies caused thereby.

15. *Pensions.*

The following pensioners died during the year :—

	\$	c.
Mr. W. A. Parker, formerly Chief Justice - - -	750	00
Mr. Downer, formerly District Magistrate - - -	526	88
Mrs. Hume, formerly hospital cook -	48	00
	<hr/>	
	1,324	88
The Surveyor General, Mr. Griffiths, was added to the list on his retirement, from 1st January 1886 -	583	34
	<hr/>	
The pension list is thus reduced some-	741	54
	<hr/>	

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Are the same.

17. *Population.*

It is doubtful if the population increases in a decade; the returns show some increment, but they are not considered very reliable, as the census has generally been taken in rather a perfunctory manner in the absence of any machinery or means for taking a more accurate one. The population was returned in—

1861 at -	-	-	-	-	25,635
1871 „ -	-	-	-	-	24,710
1881 „ -	-	-	-	-	27,452

The population is 4.22 to the square mile, and a system of registration of births and deaths was commenced at the end of 1885. There are no figures previously, except church records, to compare with the information now given. The returns are consequently not so interesting as they will be in future years. The number of births, marriages, and deaths in—

		Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1861	- - - -	445	92	154
1871	- - - -	938	254	177
1881	- - - -	740	215	300
1885	- - - -	226	256	208
1886	- - - -	1,076	264	987

The figures for the years previous to 1885 are from church records of baptisms and burials.

Those for 1885, the births and deaths are for three months only, as the Registration Ordinance, No. 15 of 1884, did not come into operation until 1st of October 1885.

From the returns for 1886 it appears the birth exceeds the death rate, but if the increment is only to be 89 a year it will be a long time before the Colony becomes populated to any great extent. This Colony has a larger area than any of the West Indian Islands, but has at the same time a smaller population than any excepting such diminutive places as Turks Island, Tobago, Virgin Islands, Nevis, and Montserrat.

The white population is 374 out of the 27,452. The number of persons employed in—

Agriculture is returned at	-	-	2,586
Wood-cutting „	-	-	1,063
Commerce „	-	-	6,323

According to the census 1881 there were :—

Mechanics	-	-	-	716
Planters, labourers, &c.	-	-	-	2,586
Labourers, not agricultural, wood-cutters, &c.	-	-	-	3,438
Traders	-	-	-	693
Military, civil servants, &c.	-	-	-	498
Domestic servants	-	-	-	1,068
Making	-	-	-	8,999

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out of the male population of 9,094 stated to be over 15 years in the census for 1881.

18. *Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.*

There is a Government Savings Bank with three branches. The number of depositors is 393, the amount deposited on 31st December 1886 was \$36,404.15.

There is only one friendly society, an Odd Fellows' lodge, with 24 members.

Freeholders are returned at 1,363 in Belize. Those in districts are chiefly Caribs, Negroes, or Indians. Persons paying direct taxes number 2,086, which include licensees of sorts.*

There are only 27 paupers known as such, 13 of whom reside in a poor-house and 14 receive out-door relief at the rate of 50 cents a week.

19. *Ecclesiastical.*

The church was disestablished in 1872, since which date the religion of the population has not been enumerated. In the census for 1871—

Protestants were returned at	-	-	9,320
Roman Catholics	„	-	15,157
Heathens	„	-	68
Not stated	-	-	165
			24,710

There were 3 clergymen of the Church of England.

„	7	„	Roman Catholic.
„	1	„	Free Church of Scotland
„	7	„	Wesleyan Methodists.
„	3	„	Baptists.

* Auctioneers, liquor, animals, carriages.

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20. *Education.*

The system is denominational with grants from Government to teachers according to attendances of scholars and examination passes; five more schools received Government aid than in 1885, and the number of scholars on the rolls was 2,527 as compared with 2,377 in the previous year.

The only publications printed in the Colony are an almanack, the Government Gazette and two weekly newspapers.

21. *Coins, Exchanges, &c.*

The coinage of the Colony consists of the 385 gr. silver dollar and fractional parts thereof. By local enactment the dollar is computed at 4s.; according to the Imperial treasury rating for the year its value is 3s. 1d. The currency question has formed the subject of discussion for some years, the result of it being a promised Order in Council fixing the current dollar as a standard.

The course of exchange is regulated according to the difference in value between currency and the money's exchange therefor; it fluctuates at the end of the year when there is an extra demand for specie, but supplies of coins are imported to provide against an undue advantage being taken of the lack of coins.

It is difficult to estimate the amount of coins (dollars) in circulation, but the amount may be roughly estimated at \$250,000.

There is no paper currency.

The amount of coins imported was \$82,173, exported \$83,526. A bank would cure this unnecessary movement to and fro of specie, and would also cure the inconvenience of handling silver in adjusting all the ordinary transactions of the Colony.

Accounts are kept in dollars and cents, and the weights and measures in use are English and Spanish.

22. *Imports and Exports.*

They compare as follows:—

—	Imports.	Exports.		Total Exports.
		Produce of the Colony.	Otherwise.	
1884 - -	1,274,277	816,432	404,979	1,225,401
1886 - -	1,179,813	1,040,591	359,643	1,400,234

The principal differences are shown on the following articles :—

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	1885.	1886.
Bananas - - - -	41,270	81,444
Logwood - - - -	311,178	457,071
Mahogany - - - -	258,709	369,999
Plantains - - - -	4,606	7,008
Rubber - - - -	51,790	56,955
Rum - - - -	18,678	39,152
Sugar - - - -	129,148	61,644

It is fortunate that the cultivation of fruit (bananas and plantains) progresses as that of the sugar cane is abandoned ; the product of the former has doubled, whereas the latter has fallen off one half. The difference in value as yet is far from compensating the Colony for the change, although the cultivation of fruit benefits a larger number of persons than that of cane.

A stock of rum had accumulated, which was shipped without profit, as there was no chance of the quantity being consumed in the Colony.

The increased export of logwood and mahogany was owing to the drought in 1885, which prevented large quantities of wood cut in that season being got out from insufficiency of water in the rivers. The heavy floods during 1886 brought out all the wood, that had been cut, hence larger shipments. The quantities were as follows :—

	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Logwood - - tons	18,364	15,302	14,020	20,134
Mahogany - - feet	6,928,168	7,527,879	4,036,688	6,107,094

The averages for the years previous, and for those above mentioned are—

	Logwood.	Mahogany.
	Tons.	Feet.
1879-1882 - - - -	16,380	2,990,652
1883-1886 - - - -	15,705	6,149,957

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The price of mahogany began to rise in 1881, consequently cuttings increased in the following years and the export was doubled; the price began to fall in 1885, and is now low, so that it may be expected, as has usually proved to be the case, less wood will be cut for the next year or so.

The number of wood-cutters being limited, if more mahogany is cut there is less logwood and *vice versa*. The price of logwood is steadier than that of mahogany, but the latter pays best when the price is high.

The rubber from the Colony is very limited, but rubber trees are found scattered throughout the forests of the Colony and, as this article promises to be in demand in future, some parties are paying attention to this product and planting out young trees, but to have to wait 10 years for a crop prevents many from contemplating such an undertaking.

23. Shipping.

Less sailing vessels entered than the previous year, but about the same number cleared.

	1885.		1886.	
	Sailing vessels.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Steamers.
Entered - -	680	140	540	182
Cleared - -	325	142	335	132

The difference between clearances and entrances is accounted for by small coasters, doreys, &c., eventually leaving places in the Colony where no clearances are granted.

24. Agriculture.

The progress of fruit culture (bananas and plantains) for the United States' markets is shown by the value exported, which is double that for 1885, and greater progress would be effected if there was available labour in the Colony to extend the area of cultivation. If it is considered an advantage to the Colony to clear its forest lands and cultivate them it follows that it will be an advantage to obtain more labour for the Colony to enable this to be done. It is a well-known fact, and now realised by all, that there is not sufficient labour in the Colony to enable the limited capital to be employed that would be devoted to fruit growing.

As all the available labour is employed to its fullest capacity it is clear no further development of the Colony can take place

beyond its present state unless arrangements are made for introducing labourers. A loan for this purpose will not be sanctioned. The planting interest is not sufficiently strong to combine for the purpose of importing labour, and the wood-cutting interests do not care to encourage planting or the absorption of the labour of the Colony in such a capacity. They naturally prefer the primeval forest, which, if left undisturbed, yields of its own accord recurring crops of the timber required, and the larger the extent of forest the more certainty of a regular annual supply of woods being obtained from it, and in case of the price to be obtained for wood rising there is room to increase cutting operations. The cultivation of fruit is proving remunerative to all those who undertake it on ordinary business principles, and there is a large margin for contingencies. Squatters and the smaller settlers, who used to be satisfied with such ground provisions as they required for their own consumption, have extended their operations so as to include a small fruit plantation. A few settlers have come to the Colony, and many labourers have become settlers.

This state of affairs is best realised from the number of persons taking off small quantities of fruit in doreys to the contract mail steamers when they call periodically at the various settlements along the coast to buy fruit for New Orleans.

If agriculturists at home could only find their way to the Colony and embark in tropical farming or cattle raising they would gain a comfortable living, and an estate of their own in a few years with only a tropical life to contend against. This could be readily realised on a capital of 2,000*l.* or less if judiciously invested, and provided more labour is introduced into the Colony.

With reference to the average rate of wages for labour it may be useful to point out, that whilst the rate remains much the same as last year the amount of labour obtained therefore is gradually becoming less, for competition amongst employers for the available labour in the Colony is so great, that the most worthless characters are hired, who do as little as is possible, to the bad example of the honest workman. If an employer exacts an honest day's work for a fair day's wage he gets a bad name, and no labourer will hire to him. Planters have therefore to adjust their working according to their labourer's will; some can coax more labour out of the workman than others, driving is useless, and it is evident from the general complaints on the subject that planting fruit, with the large margin that it leaves for contingencies, cannot be extended or even profitably pursued without some change taking place.

The only satisfactory solution to cure the inefficiency of labour, the frequent offences committed under the Labour Ordinance, which amount to 238 out of a total of 732, and in 1885 to 353 out of 747 offences committed in the Colony, and the evils of the advance system, is the importation of labourers into the Colony. The waste and deficiency of labour used to be made up from

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Jamaica, but that source of supply is cut off by the demand there for the Panama Canal, and the want of direct communication with that Colony. The importation of labour cannot be carried out by private enterprise, for it would be too great a task for one firm, although private efforts have not been wanting to import labourers, nor is there much chance of combination amongst employers being effected. Their interests are divergent, wood-cutters cannot be conveniently imported, for they are a race *sui generis*, and are only to be obtained from the Colony, hence the employers of this class of labour do not see why they should contribute towards the importation of labourers for the planters, although it should be clear, that if not directly they would be indirectly benefited, by being freed from competition with planters for labourers. The planters are not strong enough yet to undertake the task alone, and are not able yet to combine together.

If, therefore, it is considered desirable to push on the Colony the Government will have to deal with the question.

25. *Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.*

No vessels were built beyond boats or launches. There are no mines in the Colony, but a mining engineer explored several rivers in the Colony during the year, and indications of silver, coal, and lead were found. It is proposed to continue the prospecting for minerals when the sanction of the Secretary of State can be obtained to appropriate funds for the purpose. Silver, gold, and opal mines are worked in neighbouring states, and there is every reason to believe that minerals will be discovered inside the Colony if the country is properly explored.

The fisheries along the coasts of the Colony are merely used for purposes of a daily food supply, with the exception of killing turtle for the sake of tortoiseshell, and gathering sponges for shipment to Europe. A close time exists for turtle within the Colony but no restrictions are imposed along neighbouring coasts, and the supply of tortoiseshell is gradually decreasing. The quantity brought to the Colony has, however, increased as a higher price is given for it in the Colony than formerly, so that it can be used in lieu of a remittance of specie.

To the Spanish Consul, Mr. Fronske, the Colony is indebted for inaugurating the sponge industry; he desired an exclusive concession for the coasts of the Colony, but this could not be granted. The quality of the sponge is spoken of highly, but the curing is defective. When experienced hands are engaged in the business better results will doubtless be obtained.

26. *Grants of Lands.*

Twenty-one grants for one thousand four hundred and sixty acres in all of Crown lands were made during the year as compared with one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six acres sold in

1885; but many of these resulted from application of previous years, the grants not being made until the lots had been surveyed.

It is not considered desirable (bearing in mind that the development of the Colony in the future will depend greatly on the ability of the Colony to have a railway connecting Belize with Guatemala) to be in a hurry to get rid of Crown lands. These lands may be looked upon as capital, by means of which it is hoped at no distant date to procure the construction of that railway.

27. *Gaols and Prisoners.*

The gaols remain the same.

The returns show a general decrease in the number of prisoners.

28. *Criminal Statistics.*

It is to be regretted that a considerable increase in the number of indictments in the superior courts, appear in the returns showing an increase of the more serious crimes, but the difference is chiefly made up of offences against property as compared with the previous year, but offences against the person in the summary court show a considerable increase.

29. *Hospitals.*

It appears that fewer patients were treated in the hospital, but the fatality was greater than in 1885. An outbreak of yellow fever occurred in September, and out of 17 cases in the Colony, 14 terminated fatally, and three recovered. Medical opinion is divided on the subject, as to whether the outbreak originated from the cleaning out and improving a canal that ran through the town or from other causes.

30. *Lunatic Asylum.*

Six patients were admitted during the year. Out of the total number in the asylum one was discharged as cured and four died.

31. *Charitable and Literary Institutions.*

They consist of a Government Hospital, lunatic asylum, and poor house.

32. *General Remarks.*

The price of logwood, mahogany, and sugar fell lower than the previous year, and the two last mentioned to such an extent that they could not be produced without loss. A general state of depression consequently prevailed. Trade with neighbouring states is gradually disappearing, so that the transactions of the

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Colony will soon be confined within its own borders. Competition has become keener in consequence, amongst the mercantile portion of the community for the home trade. The planting interests seem the most promising and thriving.

The question remains for solution whether to let the Colony go drifting on working out its own destiny, or whether an effort should be made by means of an immigration scheme, or importation of labour, or the construction of a railway to help the Colony develop its resources and so assist its progress.

The geographical position and capabilities for supplying tropical products to the extensive and expanding markets of the United States should ensure it a fair share of the fruit trade, and it will be a reproach if a British colony cannot compete with the neighbouring states of Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, who threaten to wrest all trade from the Colony and keep it in their own hands. With this object they have started free ports, and give liberal concessions of land to settlers, and of mining rights to foreign capitalists. However, as they advance so it is hoped the Colony will, but I should prefer seeing the Colony leading the way instead of following, and benefiting by the exertions of others.

The drought in 1885 was succeeded by heavy floods during 1886, and a cyclone was apparently developed in the Colony on the 15th August, for the wind began to blow from a northerly direction; towards daylight it circled from Northern River as far as Big Falls on the Belize River, skirted the lower portion of the Sibun River, and struck the harbour of Belize, when the wind was blowing from a southerly direction, driving all vessels from their moorings, and passing northward again into the Caribbean Sea by way of Ambergris Cay. Houses and plantations were wrecked along its path, which was about 30 miles wide, and the forest in places was blocked by fallen trees.

The heat was unusual, and the highest record of temperature was reached during the year, and slight shocks of earthquake have recently been experienced.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Signed) HENRY FOWLER,
Administrator.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 12.

Governor W. J. SENDALL to the Right Hon. SIR H. T.
HOLLAND, BART., G.C.M.G., M.P.

St. Vincent, March 26, 1887.

FORWARDED.

(Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL.

The Right Hon.
Sir Henry Holland, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Government House, March 7, 1887.
I HAVE the honour to transmit my report on the Blue Book
of this Colony for the year 1886.

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

2. No charges were made in these until quite at the close of
the year, when the docket of fees in criminal cases in the district
courts was slightly varied by order of the Governor in Council.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of the year was 39,823*l.*, that of 1885 having
been 38,493*l.* The comparative receipts in these years under the
several heads are shown in the table annexed. There was a
considerable increase in customs and excise, and a slight advance
in licenses and interest in the last year. The large decrease in
reimbursements-in-aid was owing to fewer indentured immi-
grants having been in hospital and to the consequent diminished
contribution from the immigration fund for the treatment of sick
immigrants.

	1885.	1886.
	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Customs - - - - -	17,255 19 2	19,207 11 10
Excise - - - - -	10,114 10 8	11,122 1 0
Licenses - - - - -	1,881 18 9	2,112 6 3
Taxes - - - - -	1,661 11 6	1,624 5 0
Fees of office - - - - -	829 13 11	988 7 4
Fines and fees - - - - -	1,292 7 11	1,038 14 11
Post office - - - - -	548 14 6	509 18 11
Reimbursements-in-aid - - - - -	4,257 12 5	2,327 3 7
Repayment of loans - - - - -	—	50 0 0
Interest - - - - -	636 16 9	788 0 0
Miscellaneous - - - - -	13 15 11	104 15 3
Total - - - - -	38,493 1 6	39,823 4 1

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4. The expenditure of the year was 44,114*l.*; in the year previous it was 43,733*l.* but, as I explained in my report for 1885, this sum was more than 5,000*l.* in excess of the expenditure proper to that year, the excess being partly for arrears of 1884 and partly a transfer of 2,800*l.* under "Miscellaneous" to a local account, namely, to the Town of Castries Fund. Below is given a comparative statement of the expenditure of the two years:—

	1885.	1886.
<i>Fixed Establishments.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Civil - - - - -	5,105 14 1	4,846 4 7
Judicial - - - - -	4,005 3 1	3,717 16 7
Police - - - - -	2,871 7 10	2,329 13 3
Gaols - - - - -	279 10 0	293 0 0
Ecclesiastical - - - - -	1,612 4 8	1,444 17 9
Medical - - - - -	2,299 8 8	2,136 18 5
<i>Exclusive of Establishments.</i>		
Civil - - - - -	1,719 9 0	2,366 16 3
Judicial - - - - -	307 9 6	426 10 3
Police - - - - -	415 8 9	381 1 9
Gaols - - - - -	752 6 6	611 13 9
Medical and charitable - - - - -	6,907 10 3	5,847 7 4
Education - - - - -	1,355 16 8	1,250 0 0
Immigration - - - - -	1,942 19 2	—
Pensions - - - - -	1,251 12 4	1,209 7 7
Drawbacks - - - - -	189 10 4	320 12 10
Works and buildings - - - - -	4,931 6 4	11,517 9 2
Rent - - - - -	576 10 4	528 7 0
Loans and interest - - - - -	2,100 0 0	2,341 9 11
Subsidies - - - - -	1,511 3 11	1,450 0 0
Insurance - - - - -	73 18 0	115 18 0
Stationery - - - - -	—	169 16 5
Castries Cemetery - - - - -	—	50 6 0
Forestry conservation - - - - -	—	85 15 4
Miscellaneous - - - - -	3,579 19 4	672 12 10
Total - - - - -	43,738 8 9	44,113 15 0

5. The increased expenditure in 1886 under "Civil, exclusive of Establishment," is mainly caused by the payment in that year of two years' contribution to the Imperial Government for the loss sustained by the Colony joining the Postal Union. A sum of 5,190*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* was spent in the erection of the new hospital buildings and 1,785*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* in the acquisition of a block of buildings in Castries for Police Barracks, Police Court and offices, for offices for the Colonial Engineer and Protector of Immigrants, and for warehouses. These last two sums account for the increased expenditure under the head of "Works and Buildings." Deducting these extraordinary payments the expenditure for the ordinary services of the year was about 37,000*l.*

6. The statement of assets and liabilities hereunder shows the financial position of the Colony at 31st December 1886. St. LUCIA.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance in current account	274 8 0	Balance due to personal accounts:—	
Balance of deficiency in accounts of the late acting treasurers	609 11 3	St. Lucia Savings Bank	6,538 7 8
Imprests outstanding	614 1 2	Imperial Post Office Fund	1,177 9 11
Amount at interest in Colonial Bank	10,000 0 0	Castries Town Fund	160 1 8
Amount invested in Government loans, Barbados, on account of Savings Bank	1,000 0 0	Towns and Villages Fund	1,515 16 2
Amount invested in New South Wales bonds, on account of Savings Bank	2,000 0 0	Police and Revenue Officers' Reward Fund	1,362 0 7
Amount in hands of agents, Calcutta, on account of Immigration Fund	659 4 1	Suspense account	90 11 1
Balance due by Military Property Fund	968 14 5	Amount in hands of agents, Calcutta, on account of Immigration Fund	659 4 1
Balance due by casual revenue of the Crown	836 5 5	Amount of Crown Agents' accounts for December, 1886	2,061 15 10
Balance due by Central Sugar Factory Fund	152 19 10		14,465 7 0
Balance due by Immigration Fund	219 11 10	Debentures issued under the authority of the Central Sugar Factory Ordinance, 1875, and undrawn	25,100 0 0
Balance due by Castries Harbour Improvement Fund	2,763 16 6	Debentures issued under the authority of the Immigration Loan Ordinance, 1878, and undrawn	8,500 0 0
Due by the Imperial Government for advances for surveys, &c.	46 12 6	Surplus of assets	8,378 18 0
	20,144 5 0		
Amount of loan to Castries Town Fund, repayable in annual instalments of 333 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> with interest at 4 per cent.	5,000 0 0		
Shares in the St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory Company, Limited, to the amount of	31,300 0 0		
Total	56,444 5 0	Total	56,444 5 0

Public Debt.

7. At the close of 1886 the debt of the Colony was 33,600*l.* The debt of 30,000*l.* incurred in 1875 for shares in the "St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory Company" has been reduced by 4,900*l.* and now stands at 25,100*l.* The debt of 6,100*l.* incurred in 1878 for immigration purposes has been reduced to 5,500*l.* No reduction has as yet been made in the debt of 3,000*l.* incurred in 1885 for the purposes of immigration. These loans bear interest at 6 per cent. per annum, and are secured on the general revenues of the Colony.

Military Expenditure.

8. The officers of the corps of Royal Engineers, who arrived in the Colony in 1885, were engaged during the past year in making surveys and finishing plans and reports of Morne Fortuné and of the country around the port of Castries, in view of the erection of fortifications for the protection of the port as a coaling station, and of the occupation of the Morne by Imperial troops. The expenditure incurred on these surveys, as far as it is known in the Colony, was 726*l.*

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9. Laws were passed in 1854 and 1856 for establishing a militia; but these have not been put in force, and the militia has not been enrolled. No expenditure was incurred by the Colony for military defence.

Public Works.

10. The building of the new hospital, which was commenced in December 1885, was proceeded with, but was not completed in the year. 5,190*l.* were spent upon it during the year. It will be a very large, substantial, and well ventilated hospital. It is now near completion, and will be ready in a month or two for the reception of patients.

11. A sum of 583*l.* was expended on the repairs and fittings of the premises which were purchased for police barracks, warehouse, police court, and public offices. These premises were occupied some time before the close of the year, and have been found well suited for the purposes for which they were bought.

12. On the general repair and upkeep of the public buildings the sum of 696*l.* was spent, and on roads and bridges the sum of 3,765*l.* The cost of re-building the Roseau bridge is included in the last-mentioned sum. The bridge was opened for use before the close of the year, but was not thoroughly finished.

13. A portion of the Castries River embankment wall gave way during the heavy floods in the month of November. This was rebuilt very promptly of concrete at a cost of 70*l.*, charged on the Castries Town Fund.

14. Considerable progress was made during the year in the important and extensive improvements to the harbour of Castries which were begun in November 1885. These works are conducted under the direction of Sir John Coode, and locally under Mr. John H. Bostock, the resident engineer, who was selected for the purpose by Sir John Coode.

15. The machinery which has been furnished is of the best description. The dredger, built by Messrs. Simons & Co., of Renfrew, specially for these harbour works, is very powerful and does the dredging in the most rapid and effective manner.

16. Concrete cylinders are being laid to a depth of 40 feet below low water to form the new wharf, which is to be 650 feet in length. The first of these cylinders was laid on the 15th of September, and by the end of December 28 were laid. Since then they have been laid more rapidly, and at this date 58 are laid.

17. Besides the staff of foremen, divers, and artisans who have come from England to serve for a term of years on these works, upwards of 223 tradesmen and labourers find daily employment on them in various ways. The occupation thus provided for so many people, and the wages which they earn, most of which goes immediately into circulation, are as great a present benefit to the Colony, when there is so much agricultural depression, as the works will be of commercial importance and advantage in the future.

18. The port of Castries is daily becoming better known as a convenient and cheap station for coaling. Besides the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, of Scrutton's direct line and of the Quebec line which regularly call here for coals, a trade in this respect is rapidly growing with vessels from Rio Janeiro and other ports on the southern continent of America. The fitness of this port for very large vessels, and for coaling them, is proved by the fact that Admiral Lyons brought into the harbour in the last month without any difficulty his flagship, the "Bellerophon," and his fleet of six ships, three of them being corvettes of the class of the "Comus," and the "Bellerophon" and several of the ships were coaled within the harbour. The remark was made to me at the time by the captain of one of the ships that there was ample room in the harbour for at least three more corvettes. Only one shoal, known as the Rendezvous shoal, had at that time been dredged out; when the other shoals, which it is contemplated by the works now in progress to dredge out, are removed many more ships than Admiral Lyons brought in will find roomy and safe anchorage in the harbour.

Legislation.

19. Nine Ordinances were passed and came into force in the year. One repealed the Ordinances which united the offices of Sheriff and Inspector of Police, and provided that the Prothonotary of the Royal Court should also be Sheriff, and should perform the Sheriff's duties as well as those of Prothonotary. Another Ordinance provided for the appointment of Auditor of Accounts defining his duties, and his powers with respect to matters of account, and to persons having the receipt, disbursement, or custody of public moneys who are to account to him.

20. Two Ordinances, one to consolidate and amend the Ordinances relating to the distillation and disposal of spirits, and the other to amend the law relating to the granting of licenses for the sale of spirits, wine, and malt liquor, repealed the former laws on these subjects, and, without altering the principles on which they were framed, provided in lieu of them more full and simple enactments.

21. An Ordinance similar to the Imperial Statute, 16 & 17 Vict. c. 69, was passed to prevent spirituous or fermented liquors from being taken on board of Her Majesty's ships without the consent of the commanders.

22. An Ordinance which was passed in 1883, the short title of which was "The Boundaries Settlement Ordinance, 1883," having been found defective in many points was repealed by the Ordinance shortly entitled, "The Surveyors and Boundaries Settlement Ordinance, 1886." This latter Ordinance repeals also the laws which were in force for the appointment of a Colonial Surveyor, and of land surveyors, and for regulating their duties, and contains amended provisions on these subjects.

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23. An Ordinance to amend "The Harbour of Castries Loan Ordinance, 1885," was enacted, granting powers to raise a loan of 70,000*l*. for the improvement of Castries harbour, in lieu of the 60,000*l*. which was authorised to be raised by the Ordinance of 1885.

24. The other Ordinances were "The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1885," and "The appropriation Ordinance, 1887."

Councils.

25. Mr. Emmanuel Du Boulay and Mr. Chastanet, unofficial members of the Legislative Council, obtained leave of absence in the year, the former for six months and the latter for four months. They both returned within the year. Mr. Duchateau Roger was appointed to act in the place of Mr. Du Boulay, but no appointment was made in Mr. Chastanet's place.

26. On the 31st of October Mr. John Shanks Moffat, the senior unofficial member, died. This vacancy was not filled in the year.

Civil Establishment.

27. There were but few changes in the establishment during the year. Mr. C. Falconer Anton, who had been acting as Magistrate of the Third District, was appointed, provisionally, Auditor of Accounts, and Mr. John W. Elliot, from Tobago, was appointed Magistrate of the Third District. Mr. Gall, late Sheriff and Inspector of Police, having been pensioned, the duties of Sheriff were transferred to the Prothonotary of the Royal Court, and Captain Roche was appointed Inspector of Police, with charge over the Royal Gaol.

Mr. Thomas F. Meagher was confirmed as second clerk in Government office, in which place he had been acting for some time. Mr. Hart was appointed keeper of the petroleum warehouse vice Mr. M. Leod, resigned.

Pensions.

28. Mr. Gall, late Sheriff and Inspector of Police, was granted an annual pension of 80*l*., dating from the first of January 1886. There are 10 retired officers drawing pensions, amounting in the whole to the sum of 1,216*l*. 11*s*. 3*d*.

Population.

29. The population of the Colony is placed by the Registrar General at the close of the year 1886 at 41,971. But there being no record of immigration or emigration (except of East Indians) it is not possible to say with any accuracy what is really the present population. Many of the able-bodied natives have left for the Isthmus of Panama during the last and several previous years, many have returned, and many persons have come from the neighbouring colonies to seek employment on the public works here. It is pretty certain, however, that the emigration has exceeded the immigration.

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30. The births in the year numbered 1,496, excluding the still-born, of which there were 115. The birth-rate of living births was 3·61 per cent. The average birth-rate between 1869, when registration was introduced, and 1883, was 4·12 per cent.; since 1883 the average has dropped to 3·84, which the Registrar General attributes to the migration of males to the Isthmus of Panama.

31. The illegitimate births were 71·32 of the total births, showing a considerable increase in immorality in the past year. It is much to be regretted that illegitimacy has been steadily on the increase; in 1879 it stood at 62·32 per cent. of the total births and year by year the per-centage has been added to until it has reached the high proportion of 71·32.

32. The death-rate in the past year was 2·62 per cent. of the population. The Registrar General says: "This rate was about one half per cent. in excess of that of the previous year, and a trifle higher than the mean rate of 2·48 struck at the end of 1882. The published returns of Jamaica for 1885 give the rate at 2·27; those of Grenada for the same period show 2·60. The increase of the year's rate over that of 1885 is in a measure due to the mortality amongst the immigrants from the neighbouring Colonies, who, drawn here by the desire of earning money to carry back home, have huddled themselves in large numbers in unsuitable houses in Castries, feeding on the cheapest and least nutritive food. The large increase in the Savings Bank deposits would tend to show that personal expenditure has been reduced by them to the lowest possible figure compatible with bare existence."

33. The mortality among children of five years and under was 44·96 per cent. of the total deaths, 26·97 per cent. being of infants under one year, and 17·98 per cent. of children of one and not exceeding five years.

Savings Bank.

34. The business transacted in the Savings Bank during the year 1886 was considerable. The deposits amounted to 4,910*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and the withdrawals were 2,883*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* At the close of 1885 there were 267 depositors, having deposits to the amount of 4,416*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*; at the close of 1886 there were 296 depositors, having deposits to the amount of 6,538*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* This sum was held in the following manner:—

	£	s.	d.
In New South Wales inscribed stock at 3½ per cent. -	2,000	0	0
In Barbados Government debentures at 4 per cent. -	1,000	0	0
In Colonial Bank at 3 per cent. -	2,000	0	0
In Colonial Bank, current account -	1,538	7	8
	<hr/>		
	6,538	7	8
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Education.

35. There were 20 schools receiving Government aid in the past year; 10 of these were under the management of Lady Mico's trustees, nine under the management of the Roman Catholic clergy, and one was established during the year by the Government at Crown lands estate for the children of Indian emigrants.

36. Lady Mico's trustees provide schoolhouses and residences for the teachers, and give 220*l.* a year towards the maintenance of their schools, the Government granting aid to the extent of 575*l.* The trustees also give 20*l.* for an annual inspection of their schools. The Roman Catholic clergy find their schoolhouses, but contribute nothing, or a mere trifle, towards the maintenance of their schools, which are supported by the Government grant of 575*l.* The manager of the Crown lands estate finds a residence for the teacher and a schoolhouse, and the Government pays a salary of 50*l.* to the teacher. The Canadian mission to Indian immigrants through their minister the Rev. Mr. Morton, of Trinidad, has helped this school with books, and to this gentleman the Colony is indebted for the selection of the teacher, who has given satisfaction in his conduct of the school.

37. The table below shows the number of schools receiving State aid, and the number of scholars attending them in the last three years :—

	1884.		1885.		1886.	
	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.
Mico schools - -	10	1,308	10	1,431	10	1,442
Roman Catholic schools -	8	1,589	9	1,480	9	1,417
Government school for Indian immigrants - -	—	—	—	—	1	48
Totals - -	18	2,897	19	2,911	20	2,907

Imports and Exports.

38. The value of imported goods was 122,283*l.*, and of exported goods 105,207*l.* Of the latter 84,638*l.* was the value of goods the produce and manufacture of the Colony. Below are comparative tables of the values of the imports and exports in the last three years, and of the exports which were the produce of the Colony.

Imports.

Countries.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	64,985	41,857	63,642
British West Indies - - -	11,850	12,892	14,671
United States - - - -	41,189	25,543	26,256
France - - - - -	16,440	9,315	11,479
Foreign West Indies - - -	11,862	4,296	5,940
Other foreign countries - -	684	336	295
Totals - - -	146,460	93,739	122,283

Exports.

Countries.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	32,449	64,560	28,980
British West Indies - - -	1,976	1,984	17,662
United States - - - -	94,132	37,962	47,214
France - - - - -	7,021	8,821	7,198
Foreign West Indies - - -	10,385	7,852	4,070
Other foreign places - - -	3	83	83
Totals - - -	145,866	121,262	105,207

Exports, the Produce of the Colony.
(Included in above gross exports.)

Countries.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	32,440	64,551	28,980
British West Indies - - -	545	1,591	2,183
United States - - - -	93,481	36,655	42,266
France - - - - -	7,021	8,815	7,198
Foreign West Indies - - -	10,074	6,847	3,923
Other foreign countries - -	3	77	83
Totals - - -	143,564	118,536	84,638

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39. The great difference in 1886 between the value of the exports the produce of the Colony and the gross value of the exports is due to the large shipment of specie. American gold to the amount of 4,948*l.* was shipped to the United States. To Trinidad 13,481*l.* were shipped, 3,000*l.* being British gold and the remainder foreign gold; and 1,478*l.* of foreign gold was sent to Barbados. Of the 10,451*l.* of foreign gold sent to Trinidad it has been ascertained that two-thirds of it, say 6,967*l.*, was collected in 1886, and it is also ascertained that the foreign gold shipped to the United States and Barbados was collected in the same year, so that upwards of 13,393*l.* of the foreign gold that was shipped from the Colony was received in 1886. All this gold must have been brought into the Colony by the native people who returned from the Isthmus of Panama, and must have been put into circulation by them in the purchase of houses, lands, and other property and of merchandise. A merchant has stated that from the sales in his store in a village on the coast, he receives from 75*l.* to 100*l.* in foreign gold every fortnight. This village is in a part of the island from which a large number of able-bodied labourers emigrated to the Isthmus.

40. The quantities and values of the principal products of the Colony exported in the last three years, and the places to which they were shipped, are shown in the table hereunder:—

Articles.	Countries.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Cocoa	United Kingdom -	Lbs. 215,780	Lbs. 143,376	Lbs. 312,778
	United States -	680	—	—
	France -	280,670	305,318	228,580
	Barbados -	1,530	1,213	4,960
	French West Indies -	—	2,200	—
	Colon -	—	—	480
	Total	498,610	452,107	546,768
Hides	United Kingdom -	No. —	No. 200	No. 388
	United States -	98	283	1,681
	Barbados -	40	—	—
	French West Indies -	1,695	1,338	604
	Total	1,833	1,826	2,673
		£ s. d. 12,465 5 0	£ s. d. 12,109 5 0	£ s. d. 17,086 10 0
		£ s. d. 381 17 6	£ s. d. 273 14 0	£ s. d. 424 19 0

Articles.	Countries.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Logwood	United Kingdom -	Tons. 186	Tons. 70	Tons. 31
	France -	—	10	—
	United States -	43	—	—
	French West Indies -	88	—	46
	British West Indies -	—	—	21
	Total -	217 £ 414	80 £ 160	98 £ 196
Rum	France -	Galls. 60	Galls. 10,115	Galls. 796
	United States -	1,860	—	—
	Barbados -	90	—	492
	French West Indies -	11,790	508	—
	United Kingdom -	—	10,041	—
	Spanish West Indies -	—	384	—
	Colon -	—	1,118	1,138
	Total -	13,800 £ s. d. 920 0 0	22,166 £ s. d. 1,293 0 4	2,426 £ s. d. 121 6 0
Sugar (usine)	United Kingdom -	Lbs. 1,937,600	Lbs. 4,346,200	Lbs. 2,644,600
	United States -	1,187,200	405,200	3,093,900
	Grenada -	—	24,200	14,000
	St. Vincent -	—	2,000	600
	Antigua -	—	1,000	—
	Dominica -	—	400	—
	Barbados -	—	—	114,600
	Montserrat -	—	—	1,218
	French West Indies -	—	—	200
	Colon -	—	—	200
	Total -	3,124,800 £ s. d. 27,900 0 0	4,779,000 £ s. d. 40,223 5 0	5,869,318 £ s. d. 41,923 14 0
Sugar(mus- covado)	United Kingdom -	Lbs. 1,624,112	Lbs. 3,710,400	Lbs. 200
	United States -	14,223,552	5,307,700	3,685,900
	Martinique -	2,128	500	—
	Grenada -	—	—	2,000
	St. Vincent -	—	—	400
	Danish West Indies -	—	—	200
	Colon -	—	—	2,000
	Total -	15,849,792 £ s. d. 91,984 15 0	9,018,600 £ s. d. 56,366 5 0	3,690,700 £ s. d. 18,947 15 10

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Articles.	Countries.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Molasses - {	Martinique -	Galls. 335,900	Galls. 379,349	Galls. 215,804
	United Kingdom -	—	2,158	—
	Total - {	335,900	381,407	215,804
		£ s. d. 8,397 10 0	£ s. d. 6,356 15 9	£ s. d. 3,596 14 8

41. The port of Castries has been used as a coaling station for some time past, and a large stock of coal was on hand, but in the last year an additional supply of 12,154 tons was imported to meet the increased demand which it was expected would arise in the present year.

Shipping.

42. The number of sailing vessels which entered the port of the Colony in 1886 was 242, and of steamers 203; the tonnage of the former was 12,177 and of the latter 205,775; the crews of the sailing vessels numbered 1,215 and of the steamers 7,730.

43. The number of sailing vessels which cleared was 240, tonnage 11,789, crews 1,200; and the number of steamers which cleared was 202, tonnage 205,687, crews 7,715.

44. The shipping inwards and outwards in 1884 and 1885 was :—

Inwards.

—			1884.	1885.
Sailing vessels - -	{	No.	219	224
		Tons	20,050	14,077
		Crews	1,415	1,245
Steamers - - -	{	No.	189	199
		Tons	191,150	201,056
		Crews	7,438	7,559
Total - - -	{	No.	408	423
		Tons	211,200	215,133
		Crews	8,848	8,804

Outwards.

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			1884.	1885.
Sailing vessels	- -	No.	218	225
		Tons	19,651	14,245
		Crews	1,389	1,272
Steamers	- - -	No.	189	200
		Tons	191,150	201,695
		Crews	7,433	7,569
Total		No.	402	425
		Tons	210,801	215,940
		Crews	8,822	8,841

45. No record is obtainable of the number of vessels that coaled in the years 1884 and 1885, but in 1886 86 vessels took coal, namely, six ships of Her Majesty's navy, four foreign ships of war, two yachts, and 74 other vessels.

Prisons.

46. The returns on this subject are favourable, and exhibit a diminution in the number of commitments.

47. The report on the sanitary condition of the prison by the Colonial Surgeon is also satisfactory. There was one death, a case of suicide.

48. The following table gives a comparative statement of the commitments in the three years last past, the daily averages, the sick averages, and the deaths:—

		1884.	1885.	1886.
Number of commitments	- -	381	524	365
Number for safe custody, &c.	- -	102	160	102
Number for penal imprisonment	-	279	364	263
Daily average in prison	- -	58	65	58
Number admitted to infirmary	- -	88	44	44
Daily average on sick list	- -	2.53	2.55	4.11
Deaths	- - - -	1	4	1

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Criminal Statistics.

49. Crime in the past year was less. The offences reported to the police and the number of persons apprehended or summoned by them were fewer in 1886 than in the four years preceding. The summary convictions in the magistrates' courts, and the convictions in the superior court, were also fewer in number.

50. In the superior court there were only 31 cases against 49 in the previous year. Of the 31 cases judgment was for the prisoner in 14 cases, one prisoner was found insane, and one case fell through, leaving 15 judgments for the Crown; of these judgments six were for offences against the person, one of them being for manslaughter and one for concealment of birth, and nine were for offences against property, one only being for malicious injury to property.

51. Annexed is a comparative table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals in the last four years.

	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Number of offences reported to the police -	1,750	1,634	1,452	1,334
Number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates - - - -	2,245	2,097	2,064	1,800
Number of summary convictions:—				
For offences against the person - -	275	337	280	235
For prædial larceny - - -	23	26	49	10
For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	62	86	79	84
Number of convictions in the superior court:—				
For offences against the person -	8	15	17	6
For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	13	8	14	9
For other offences - - -	1	—	—	—
Number of persons acquitted:—				
In the inferior courts - - -	1,104	991	1,021	972
In the superior courts - - -	10	5	18	12

Hospitals and Asylums.

52. In the temporary hospital at Morne Fortuné there were 2,168 admissions in 1886 and there were 164 patients remaining from the year previous, making 2,332 patients under treatment in the year. The daily average was 114. In 1885 there were 155 patients from the year previous and 3,317 persons were admitted

making a total of 3,472 patients under treatment, with a daily average of 159. By far the larger number of these patients were Indian immigrants who arrived in the Colony at the end of 1884 and beginning of 1885. These immigrants crowded the hospitals in the first year of their arrival, but becoming acclimatized did not frequent them much in the past year. The death-rate in the temporary hospital, calculated on the number under treatment, was 2·6 per cent., and on the bed rate or daily average 53 per cent.

53. The hospital at Soufrière had 19 patients from the previous year and 204 were admitted, making a total of 223 under treatment in 1886. The daily average number in hospital was 14, and the deaths were 18. The death-rate of those under treatment was 8 per cent.

54. The hospital at Dennery had 375 admissions in the year, which, with 17 patients from the previous year, made a total of 392 patients under treatment. The daily average was 19. There were 10 deaths, giving a death-rate of 2·55 on the number treated.

55. In the Vieuxfort Hospital there were 20 patients at the beginning of the year and there were 395 admissions, making 415 under treatment. The daily average was 14. Eight patients died, giving a death-rate of 1·92 per cent on the cases treated:

56. The yaws hospital had 73 patients from 1885, and 162 persons were admitted, making 235 under treatment in the year. Five patients died and 132 were discharged cured. The daily average in hospital was 83, and the death-rate was 2·1 per cent. on the cases treated.

57. The poor and incurable hospital (in Castries) had in it at the beginning of the year 73 patients and there were 310 admissions, making 383 patients under treatment. The daily average was 63. The deaths were 76; and the death-rate on the cases treated was 19·84 per cent.

58. During the year 1886 the patients treated in these institutions numbered 3,980, the daily average being 307. 3,251 patients were discharged "cured," and 154 "relieved." The deaths were 178, giving a death-rate on the cases under treatment of 4·47 per cent.

59. At the dispensary in Castries 11,890 patients received medical advice and treatment, and 6,017 in the eight dispensaries in the other districts, making a total of 17,907 out-patients who received medical aid. In the Castries dispensary the number of "dressings" of ulcers was 6,398 and of wounds 741. The number of fever cases entered on the register was 872.

60. The Colonial Surgeon reports, "the very large number of dispensary patients bears testimony to the general appreciation of the medical services rendered, and the number of ulcers and injuries dressed at these institutions gives evidence of the anxious desire of the medical staff to reduce, as far as possible, the numbers of those who would otherwise seek admission for hospital treatment."

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Lunatic Asylum.

61. In the past year eight males and five females were admitted into this asylum. The daily average in it was 20. Six patients were discharged cured; there were two deaths. One male patient escaped, and four were transferred to the asylum at Grenada. These four were all that the asylum could receive.

62. It would be a great boon to the unfortunate lunatics were it possible to provide for them in the general asylum at Grenada, where the patients are commonly allowed to be in association in commodious rooms, and have large airing yards for exercise and recreation. In this island the building in which they are placed is small; each patient has to be kept in a separate room, and there is no properly enclosed space where they can be allowed, with safety, to take exercise. This building is in Fort Charlotte and will be required when the troops are again stationed in the island. It will then be necessary to provide other accommodation for the lunatics, and opportunity should be taken to provide this in the Central Asylum, having locally only a small building for the temporary confinement of those waiting to be transferred to the central asylum and of cases of temporary insanity.

General Remarks.

63. The health of the Island was not so good in the past year; fevers and rheumatic complaints having been more prevalent owing to the continuous and excessive rainfall. From this cause there was an unusual amount of illness in Castries in the months of July, August, and September.

64. It was feared by many that using the dredgings of the harbour for the reclamation of land at its eastern shore would have been found prejudicial to the health of the town and its neighbourhood, but this has not been the case. The dredgings have been of coral and hard clay and have been perfectly free from noxious or disagreeable odours.

65. Owing to the existence of yellow fever at Colon at one season of the year, quarantine regulations had to be enforced against that port, and also for a limited time against the island of Martinique, through which it was found persons from Colon were in the habit of returning to the Colony. Happily the precautions taken proved effective, and no case of the disease occurred in St. Lucia.

66. When the works at the Isthmus of Panama first attracted notice here and people were induced to emigrate for the purpose of taking employment at those works, it was considered that St. Lucia would suffer greatly by the exodus. This probably would have resulted had not the cultivation of muscovado sugar been checked, and since become almost abandoned, by reason of the depressed condition of the markets. But under existing circumstances the emigration has, in fact, proved most beneficial. Numbers

of able-bodied men, who would have been without employment in the Colony, have sought and obtained lucrative occupation at the Isthmus, some of these have come back with money in their pockets, while others, without returning, have remitted large sums to their families or friends. These moneys are being invested in the purchase of land, and the peasant proprietary body is consequently on the increase. Many of those who have come back and invested their gains in property have again returned to the Isthmus in search of more gold, leaving their wives and families meanwhile to look after their lands and crops. It is seen, as noticed before, that by this intercourse upwards of 13,393*l.* of foreign gold found its way into circulation in the Colony in the past year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE.

His Excellency
Walter J. Sendall, Esquire,
Governor-in-Chief.

St. Lucia.

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No. 13.

Governor the Right Hon. VISCOUNT GORMANSTON to the Right
Hon. Sir H. T. HOLLAND, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

Government House, Antigua,
April 27, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1886, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GORMANSTON,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland Bart., G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of DOMINICA for the year 1886.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue in 1886	-	-	15,238 2 2½
Expenditure in 1886	-	-	15,642 7 7½

In the total revenue are included arrears of revenue for 1885 to the amount of 239*l.* 8*s.* 10½*d.*, and a sum of 395*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.* derived from an additional 5 per cent. duty imposed under the provisions of Act No. 2 of 1886 for three fourths of the year only, viz., from the 1st April to 31st December.

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These two items, amounting together to 635*l.*, were not included in the annual estimates as probable sources of revenue and may, therefore, for the purpose of comparing the estimated and actual revenue, be deducted.

After making this deduction the receipts from all ordinary and fixed sources of revenue are seen to have amounted to 14,603*l.* 2*s.* 2½*d.*

As compared with the estimate of the revenue for 1886, which had been set down at 15,475*l.*, there was, accordingly, a deficiency in the actual receipts (omitting fractions) of 872*l.*

The deficiency was general, being spread through all branches of the revenue, for of the 27 heads under which the revenue is classified, in seven only were the receipts above the estimated standard.

The only considerable increase was in "Post Office receipts," which exceeded the estimate by 100*l.*

Under the head of "Customs" the receipts from export duties and excise were slightly above the estimate, but the receipt from import duties showed a decrease of 319*l.* and those from tonnage duties of 92*l.*

Under the head of "Fees of Office" there was a decrease of 96*l.*, and under that of "Road Fund" of 185*l.*, the decrease in each case being nearly one third of the estimated receipts.

The amount paid for liquor and trade licenses was 106*l.* less than the estimate, and under 13 heads, which need not be particularly specified, the aggregate deficiency in the actual as compared with the estimated receipts was 147*l.*

The cause of the deficiency, particularly of the large decrease in Customs receipts, and in the number of licenses taken out, must be looked for in the continued decline of the trade of the island.

Expenditure.

In the total expenditure are included certain expenses for interest on loans and other services, amounting together to 480*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.*, which were defrayed by the Crown Agents, the requisite funds having been advanced by them and the Colonial Government having found itself unable to make the due remittances before the close of the year.

Their advances will be repaid out of the revenue of the present year 1887.

In addition to the above there remained at the close of the year the following liabilities, which have since been paid off out of the revenue of 1887, viz. :—

	£
Due to W. I. and P. Telegraph Company	- 300
Due to Postmaster General	- 362

If these two sums be considered as a portion of the expenditure proper to the year 1886 the total expenditure would be 16,304*l.*, being 1,066*l.* in excess of the total revenue.

In the annual estimates the expenditure for 1886 had been set down at 17,078*l.*; but the usual deductions were to be made on account of the salaries attached to certain acting appointments being paid at lower rates than those fixed by law, effecting a saving in the cost of the establishments of 560*l.*

Besides the reduction of cost in the establishments, there was a saving of 383*l.* effected in the cost of the hospitals and poor house, and a saving of 271*l.* by a temporary reduction of the police force.

Upon the retirement of the Registrar, Mr. Fadelle, from the service on the 1st of May the salary of the office of Registrar and Provost Marshal was reduced to 250*l.*, and a reduction of 106*l.* under that head appears in the expenditure returns; but that was counterbalanced by a more than corresponding increase in the pension list.

Mr. Blanc having been employed as a civil engineer in other Presidencies a portion of his salary, amounting to 73*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, was repaid to the Dominica Treasury.

There was a reduction in the cost of the maintenance of prisoners in the gaol of 52*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, and in the cost of the Roseau Waterworks of 43*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, and in addition to the above there were minor savings to the extent of 114*l.* under 15 heads of expenditure, making a total decrease (omitting fractions) of 1,603*l.*

On the other hand, the expenditure was increased by some items not foreseen at the time of framing the estimates, but which became a necessary part of the expenditure of the year, and were provided for in supplementary estimates, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Increase to pension list - -	178	8	5
Completion of waterworks at Point Michelle - -	100	14	0
Cost of new assessment made by Commissioners of house tax - -	60	0	0
Cost of registration of voters under the Franchise Act, 1886 - -	103	0	0

The estimate of ordinary expenditure was exceeded under the following heads, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Arrears of 1885 - -	63	7	6
Works and buildings - -	19	18	0
Road repairs - -	87	1	0½
Printing - -	36	16	10
Stationery and books - -	11	4	7½
Inland post - -	16	5	7½
Quarantine - -	21	12	0½
Small sums under nine heads, not specified above - -	38	5	4

making a total increase of 736*l.*

The balance being struck between the increase and decrease of expenditure under the several heads above detailed, there remains a decrease of 867*l.* in the actual as compared with the estimated expenditure of the year.

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Public Works.

The works for supplying water to the village of Point Michelle were commenced in April and finished in three months at a cost of 100*l.* 14*s.*, which was provided for in the supplementary estimates.

A sum of 300*l.* had been granted for this service in 1880 by Act No. 23 of 1880, but in the first instance pipes of insufficient size were procured from England; and subsequently when the mistake was rectified, and a sufficient quantity of 2-inch pipes and other material had been procured and conveyed to the locality, the original vote was expended, with the exception of a small balance of 5*l.*, and the financial condition of the Presidency did not permit of an additional vote for this service being inserted in the annual estimates.

But a work of so much sanitary importance, for which three fourths of the expenditure had been already incurred, could not be indefinitely postponed, and it was therefore determined to proceed with it.

The reservoir is constructed in the valley through which the River Loubiere runs by the side of the public road, at an elevation of 250 feet above the sea level, and fed by spring waters which are always in abundance even in the driest weather.

The pipes are conducted for the whole distance, 10,400 feet, by the side of the public road into the street of the village, which is on the sea-beach, and along which four hydrants are erected.

The water is of excellent quality, much superior to the river water which is supplied to the town of Roseau, and the supply so abundant as to be practically inexhaustible.

Legislation ; Political Franchise ; Assembly.

A session of the Assembly took place in the months of March and April, during which four Acts were passed, the last of which (No. 4 of 1886) was an Act for the extension of the franchise.

Upon the passing of this Act, the principle of which had been approved previously by the Secretary of State, the Assembly was dissolved to enable new elections to be held under the extended franchise, by which the qualifications for voting were reduced to the possession of freehold property to the yearly value of 4*l.* or an occupancy of the yearly value of 8*l.*

The possession of an income of 25*l.* or the payment of taxes to the amount of at least 15*s.* were also made sufficient qualifications for voters.

New elections were held in the month of August, and the same members who had belonged to the last Assembly were again returned, with the exception of Mr. John Bellot, who had retired from the representation of his electoral district, and was replaced in the Assembly by Mr. A. D. Riviere.

The new Assembly was convened on the 6th September, and six Acts were introduced, Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of 1886, of which the five first named had for object the amendment of the taxation laws.

These Acts were passed on the 30th September, and the Assembly was prorogued.

Act No. 5 of 1886 provides for the valuation of all lands, houses, &c. in the island for the purpose of taxation by means of a board of commissioners, with the right of appeal to a judge of the Supreme Court.

Act No. 6 of 1886 repeals the House Tax Act of 1855, under which a tax of 4 per cent. has been collected upon the rental value of all houses and lots in the town of Roseau, the outlying towns, and over the strip of sea-coast called the "three chains," and substitutes for it a tax of 10s. per 100l. on the substantive value of all property in lands or houses, wherever situated, throughout the island.

Act No. 7 of 1886 amends Act No. 2 of 1879, by extending the incidence of the income tax to all classes, with the proviso that the amount of any land tax or trading license may be deducted from the income tax payable upon any income derived from land or trade in the island.

Act No. 8 of 1886 repeals the Road Act of 1882, and provides for a more extended collection of the road tax by substituting an assessment to the tax according to the value of landed property owned or the income of the taxpayer, in place of the arbitrary division into three classes as formerly, but the number of days' labour upon the roads to be exacted from men of the labouring class is reduced from 12 days to nine.

Act No. 9 of 1886 repeals the Act of 1863, by which steam vessels were exempted from the payment of tonnage and harbour duties, to which sailing vessels still remained subject, and renders steam vessels liable to the same duties henceforth as sailing vessels.

Act No. 10 of 1886 is an Act to amend in some particulars the "Franchise and Registration of Voters Act, 1886."

Four of the above-mentioned Acts, Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9, contained the usual reservation clause, and did not come into operation until Her Majesty's allowance of the same had been notified by Proclamations under date of 7th December 1886.

The Assembly was again summoned to meet in December, when the Annual Estimates for 1887 and the Supplementary Estimates of 1886 were introduced and passed.

Three Acts, viz., the Appropriation Act, 1887, the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 1886, and an "Act to amend the Jobbers and Boatmen's Act, 1880," by reducing the license fee from four shillings, to two shillings were also passed in this session but did not receive the Governor's assent until the month of January 1887.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. Joseph Fadelle, Registrar and Provost Marshal, retired from the service on the 1st May, receiving a pension of 300l. per annum.

This officer held the separate appointments of Provost Marshal and Registrar at the time when the offices were amalgamated by

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the Act of the Leeward Islands No. of 1881 and on his acceptance of the dual appointment his salary was fixed at 400*l.* per annum, but for any future holder of the office the salary appropriated was 300*l.*

Mr. Fadelle also held the appointment of Interpreter to the Courts, at a salary of 50*l.* and was in receipt of a pension of 26*l.* per annum granted to him on the abolition of his office of Messenger to the Legislative Council.

Mr. F. P. Latouche succeeded to the appointment of Registrar and Provost Marshal at a salary of 250*l.* per annum, and Mr. J. A. Pinard was appointed Interpreter at a salary of 25*l.*

There is accordingly a saving of 175*l.* in the cost of the Establishment to compensate partially for the addition of 274*l.* to the Pension List.

Mr. A. P. Viret was appointed Clerk in the President's Office, at a salary of 60*l.* in place of Mr. James Woodcock.

Imports and Exports.

	£	s.	d.
Total value of Imports in 1886	49,734	8	3
„ „ Exports „	51,530	5	11½

The proportion of imports and exports as between the United Kingdom, British Colonies and Foreign Countries was as follows:—

—	Imports from.	Exports thereto.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	20,869	15,798
British Colonies - - -	11,516	2,528
Foreign Countries - - -	17,348	33,203

There was a further decline in the total value of the imports and exports as compared with those of the previous year as exhibited in the following statement:—

—	1885.	1886.
	£	£
Imports - - - -	50,204	49,784
Exports - - - -	52,486	51,530

A proportion equal to 3,605*l.* in value of the total exports, is to be accounted for by the exportation of foreign bonded goods.

Colonial produce to the value of 47,925*l.* formed the bulk of the exports, of which sugar is still the staple, but in 1886 the export of sugar scarcely exceeded in value one half of the total produce exported,

The value of the sugar crop for exportation was 24,576*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, of which the most part was exported to the United States, viz., 1,663 hogsheads of different sizes, 754 tierces and casks, and 2,599 barrels, the whole valued at 23,160*l.* 11*s.*

The value of the export of sugar to the United Kingdom was 1,384*l.* 1*s.*, and a few barrels to the value of 31*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* were shipped to the neighbouring islands.

The principal articles of food consumption were imported—chiefly from the United States—in about the same quantities as in the previous year, viz. :—

	£
Salted meat and dried fish - - -	6,795
Flour - - -	5,238
Butter and lard - - -	2,059

and clothing and boots—chiefly from the United Kingdom—to the value of 13,391*l.*, a very small increase over the quantity imported in 1885, which was valued at 13,345*l.*

With the exception of sugar, there is an increase in the returns of agricultural produce exported, as the following comparison of the figures for 1886 and the previous year will show :—

	1885.	1886.
	£	£
Lime juice - - - - -	3,252	5,004
Coffee - - - - -	61	113
Fresh fruit - - - - -	951	1,414
Cocoa - - - - -	7,796	13,430

It should be mentioned, however, that, in regard to certain kinds of produce, the returns of the quantities exported are by no means equivalent to the quantity grown in the island.

The export returns of coffee and cocoa, for instance, depend very much upon the relative prices obtainable in Roseau or in Martinique and Guadeloupe.

If the French islands offer the best market, about half the crop, more or less, will find its way to those islands without the knowledge of the Customs Departments, the boats which are employed in the smuggling trade neither clearing from the ports of Portsmouth and Roseau, in Dominica, nor entering at the French ports.

Thus in 1881 the returns of the export of cocoa are 12,623*l.*, but in the four intermediate years between 1881 and 1886 the average export was only 7,136*l.*

The principal reason is that good prices were offered in Roseau, to the growers of cocoa in 1881 and again in 1886, by the shippers of that produce,

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The small fruit trade is in course of slow development, and reached a total export of 1,414*l.* in value.

The principal fruits exported are bananas, cocoanuts, oranges, and tamarinds, and small quantities of limes, mangoes, shad-docks, &c.

Bananas are shipped chiefly to Antigua and the two Danish islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix, and are valued for export at 6*d.* per bunch.

Cocoanuts are shipped to Antigua and other islands, and are valued for export at 8*s.* 4*d.* per 100.

Oranges are valued at 1*s.* per 100, and are shipped chiefly to the United States; and tamarinds are valued at 15*s.* per cwt., and are shipped to the United Kingdom.

The quantities and values at the shipping port of the principal varieties of fruit exported in 1886 are given below :—

—	Quantity.	Value.
Bananas - - - -	9,291 bunches	£ s. d. 232 5 6
Cocoanuts - - - -	72,916	303 16 4
Oranges - - - -	1,036,710	518 7 1
Tamarinds - - - -	258 barrels	193 10 0

Criminal Statistics.

There was a slight decrease in the number of offences compared with the number of offences reported in 1885, as the following statement shows :—

—	1885.	1886.
Total number of offences reported - -	2,189	1,917
Summary convictions - - -	1,004	901
Convictions in the superior courts - -	11	17

Of the total number of offences 427 were prosecutions under the Road Act, which were disposed of by the magistrates as follows :—

Discharged for want of prosecution	-	245
Fined - - - -	-	121
Imprisonment in default	-	37
Dismissed - - - -	-	24

Of the whole number of persons brought before the magistrates' courts by arrest, warrant, or summons, 617 were discharged for

want of prosecution by the party complaining or for want of evidence, 381 were acquitted, 901 persons summarily convicted, and 18 persons committed for trial in the superior courts.

Of the whole number of persons summarily convicted 596 were punished by fine, 145 by imprisonment in default of payment of fine, 51 by peremptory imprisonment, and 109 were bound over with or without sureties.

In the superior courts there were 17 persons convicted and one acquitted, seven convictions being for offences against the person and 10 for offences against property.

Of the seven persons convicted of crimes of violence, two, a father and son, were convicted of the crime of murder and sentenced to capital punishment. The sentence was carried out only in the case of the elder man, the capital sentence being commuted in the other man's case to penal imprisonment for life.

General Remarks.

I pointed out in my report on the Blue Book for 1885 that the revenue derived from those fixed and ordinary sources, which had remained for many years without alteration of any kind, had diminished to the extent of 5,097*l.*, and that the diminution had taken place principally during the two consecutive years 1884 and 1885, so that, whereas, in 1881, the receipts were 19,065*l.*, the receipts in 1884 from precisely the same taxes, duties, &c. were only 16,092*l.*, and in 1885 they had sunk to 13,968*l.*

At the same time that a fourth of the annual revenue was thus disappearing, the hurricane of 4th September 1883 had left its legacy of increased expenditure in public roads, &c. to be repaired, and public buildings to be roofed or rebuilt, some of which are unfinished at this day.

The expedients adopted to meet the inevitable deficiencies of the years 1884 and 1885 (besides the reductions of expenditure, which have been consistently carried out wherever practicable) may be briefly mentioned in this place, viz.:

(1.) A sum of 1,200*l.*, part of the "Roseau Embankment Fund," was appropriated under Act No. 9 of 1883 as a provision for repairs of public buildings.

(2.) To meet the deficiency at the close of the year 1884 a sum of 1,500*l.* was raised by loan under Act No. 7 of 1884, to be paid off at the expiration of five years, with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, from the produce of a 5 per cent. tax imposed for that purpose for the term of five years.

(3.) In 1885 the balance remaining to the credit of the "Roseau River Embankment Fund," which after an expenditure of 179*l.* 12*s.* upon necessary work connected with that scheme was reduced to 697*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, was appropriated in aid of general revenue by Act No. 13 of 1885.

The condition of the Presidency, financial and otherwise, was not improved during the year 1886, since it has been shown in the

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preceding paragraphs that a 5 per cent. additional duty was imposed by the Act No. 2 of 1886 from the 1st April to the 31st December to meet the anticipated deficiency of the year, and that notwithstanding this provision there was an actual deficiency of 1,066*l.* for which no provision was made, and which, therefore, becomes chargeable to the revenue of 1887.

As it became evident that temporary expedients would not avail to meet deficiencies of revenue which threatened to recur annually a scheme for raising additional revenue by taxation was proposed to the Legislature.

The main feature in the proposals of the Government, and the only real innovation in the system of taxation in the Presidency, was the imposition of a tax upon all property in land or houses.

A house tax of 4 per cent. on the rental value existed since 1856, and pressed with unusual severity on the poorest classes, being levied only in the towns and on the narrow strip of land formerly known as the King's Three Chains, and comprising the shore all round the island as far as three chains measurement from high-water mark.

It is on this strip of land that most of the villages are built, and by the inclusion of this area in the scheme of the first house tax it was no doubt originally intended to check the tendency which the labouring population were displaying to leave the estates and build their huts on the sea shore,—whether to enjoy greater freedom from interference, or to obtain the abundant food supplies which these seas afford, or whatever the inducement may have been.

But the intention having failed of its purpose, the tax remained, an example of unfair taxation, and, consequently, a cause of discontent amongst the labouring classes.

The system adopted for the new tax is that of a general valuation of all property in land or houses throughout the island by five persons appointed by the Governor as commissioners.

The tax, which is only one half per cent., is levied on the capitalized value of all such property.

It is proposed, at the end of two years, when it may be hoped that the revenue will have recovered something of its former elasticity, to abolish the export tax.

One of the most important fiscal reforms recommended in the Report of the Royal Commissioners, and now strongly advocated in Trinidad, will then have been accomplished in Dominica.

The other changes in the taxation laws have been briefly described in the foregoing paragraphs under the head of Legislation, and I need not further allude to them.

Unfortunately, these measures could not be passed without encountering a bitter opposition, but it may be confidently anticipated that, as their effects are better known, they will become acceptable to the good sense of the community at large, not only as being necessary under the stress of present circumstances, but

as containing in their provisions the elements of a more equitable and a sounder system of taxation.

With regard to the condition of the labouring classes there is neither cause for present congratulation nor, on the other hand, for any feeling of alarm as to the future which awaits them.

They have suffered the pinch of increasing poverty for the past three or four years as employment for labour becomes yearly more difficult to obtain, but they have never been dependent on wages to the same extent as the population of St. Kitts and Antigua, and will probably become more independent in the course of time as they learn to avail themselves more freely of the opportunities offered them of becoming proprietors on a small scale.

The price of Crown land which was fixed for many years at 1*l.* per acre was reduced last year to 10*s.*, with special facilities for payment by instalments, and a block of 500 acres in a good situation in the north of the island has been surveyed and laid out in 10 acre lots to be sold at 10*s.* an acre, including all fees for survey, grants, registration, &c.

This was a much needed reformation, and accompanied, as it has been, by a better system of administration in that department will probably lead hereafter to an increased demand for the Crown lands.

At present the best of the labouring men are attracted by the high wages given at the mines of Cayenne or Venezuela, and they are leaving Dominica yearly in considerable numbers; 40 passports for Cayenne were issued last year and 46 during the present year to date (20th April); but these men often return to Dominica with the money they have made, and some of them, no doubt, weary of the exhausting work of the mines, will recruit the class of small freeholders.

Education has made satisfactory progress amongst them.

The inspector of schools in his report for the year 1886 says:

"No presidency of the Leeward Islands has made greater progress in elementary education than Dominica has since the introduction of the Education Act of 1874."

"The daily average attendance has increased from 600 in 1875 to 1,192 in 1886, or over 98 per cent.; and whereas in 1875 out of 23 schools only 8 passed, in 1886 out of 23 schools 20 obtained a class."

The total cost to the Presidency is about 1,000*l.* annually.

Under the management of the present board of guardians the charitable institutions are maintained in a high state of efficiency, and the out-patients department recently opened at the Roseau Infirmary has been a great boon to the large class of persons for whose necessities it was intended to provide.

The total cost of these institutions, including the salary of the medical officer in charge, is about 2,550*l.* per annum.

In the country districts the enforced reduction of the medical staff has left a very large proportion of the population without medical assistance.

DOMINICA.

There are only two district medical officers, one resident at Roseau in the extreme south, the other at Portsmouth, in the north of the island.

Their services are thus utilized where the population is collected in the largest numbers, but the desirability of affording medical aid to the population on the Windward coast, either by increasing the medical staff or establishing public dispensaries, should be steadily kept in view.

A moderate improvement in the condition of the finances would permit the project to be carried out.

It is not improbable that such an improvement will take place during the next two or three years, not only as a consequence of the new taxation but through the return of activity in the small commercial business of the island.

The fact that the revenue from fixed and ordinary sources reached its lowest point in the year 1885, and that the receipts from the same sources in 1886 showed a decided though small increase, affords encouragement to the idea that the downward tendency is finally arrested and that a turn in the tide of affairs may be looked for.

(Signed) JOHN S. CHURCHILL,
Acting President.

19th April 1887.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 14.

Governor Sir H. W. NORMAN, K.C.B., C.I.E., to the Right Hon.
Sir H. T. HOLLAND, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

SIR, King's House, March 29, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1886, together with the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN,
Governor.

The Right Hon.

Sir Henry T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

**REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
for 1886.****1. Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.**

The only change during the year has been in the fees payable upon proceedings in the Supreme Court, those now charged being regulated by the Supreme Court Ordinance of 1885, under which the fees are merely nominal, and the practice of the court greatly simplified.

2. Finance.

At the commencement of the year there was a balance from 1885 of 2,680*l.* 12*s.*, and the receipts from all sources amounted to 7,730*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* The expenditure from ordinary revenue amounted to 6,859*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, or 871*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* less than the receipts for the same period, but expenditure on special public works, amounting to 1,404*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, was sanctioned from the surplus revenue of the previous year. The total expenditure was therefore 8,264*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, against a gross revenue of 10,411*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a surplus of 2,146*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* The assets on the 31st December 1886 were:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance in Treasury	2,146	16	4
Invested in 4 per cent. Australian debentures	1,000	0	0
	<u>3,146</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>4</u>

The only liability was an amount of 11*l.* 6*s.* due to the Government of Jamaica for certain advances. There is no public debt.

3. Public Works.

The public offices at Cockburn Harbour were finished during the year, and a new police court and station, with a fireproof room attached, for the custody of records, was commenced at Grand Turk. A residence for the recently appointed magistrate of the Caicos Islands was erected at Wades Green, on the North Caicos. Extensive repairs were carried out on the roads at Grand Turk, including the re-making of some that had long been impassable in wet weather, and a solid stone groin was run out to the south of the beach to check the ravages of the sea, which was rapidly encroaching on that end of the town, and the Salt abutment, which had been undermined by the heavy gales of December 1885, was partly rebuilt at considerable cost. At Salt Cay, in addition to the annual repairs, a new sea wall, 250 yards long, was commenced at Cooks Hole, and is now nearly completed. At Cockburn Harbour the work of filling in the swamp at the back of the salt beach was commenced, and will be continued this year. The total expenditure under this head amounted to 1,570*l.*

4. Legislation.

Besides the Supply Ordinances, and two minor Ordinances affecting the pensions and securities of certain officers, only two other laws were passed. Ordinance No. 5 enforces the observance on masters of vessels of the rules issued by the Pilot Board for the regulation of the harbours and roadsteads of the Settlement; and Ordinance No. 6 permits the use of a still in certain manufactures without a license being taken out, as required by Ordinance 4 of 1881.

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5. *Civil Establishment.*

In October Mr. W. J. Anderson, the Judge of the Supreme Court, who had been holding an acting appointment in Jamaica since 1884, was transferred to the civil list of that Colony, and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Mr. Charles Henry Roberts, who arrived in the Settlement on October 11th. The Government Medical Officer, Dr. Bascome, retired on pension on the 1st May after a service of 36 years, but has continued to act as Medical Officer pending the arrival of his successor. Dr. Gerald Blanc was appointed to the vacancy in October, but having been shipwrecked on his voyage to Turks Island, he resigned before assuming his duties, and the post is still vacant. The only other appointment made was that of a turnkey to the jail to fill a death vacancy.

6. *Pensions.*

Two new pensions were added to the list, those of Dr. Bascome, who retired on account of age and infirmity, and of Mr. J. C. Crisson, late clerk to the judge, on abolition of office. The pension list has now reached a total of 983*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, out of a total (estimated) expenditure of 6,600*l.*

7. *Ecclesiastical.*

Though the church no longer receives aid from Government funds, it may be mentioned that, after being closed for upwards of a year for want of a minister, the Church of England was reopened in December on the arrival of the newly appointed rector, the Rev. H. F. Crofton. There are therefore now three ministers of religion in these Settlements, belonging respectively to the Anglican, Wesleyan, and Baptist Churches. The large majority of the people belong to the two latter denominations, which have chapels at all the Settlements, conducted by lay readers or deacons, whereas the Anglican body has churches in only the three principal Settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour.

8. *Education.*

There are seven primary schools maintained in these Settlements at the expense of the Government, and in addition to these there is a large Wesleyan day school at Grand Turk, and also several small private schools for higher education. The attendance at the public schools has fallen off in the past year, the return only showing 782 on the books, against 810 in 1885. The exceptionally wet weather, added to an unusual prevalence of infantile disease, of which the damp was partially the cause, is sufficient to account for this. Cockburn Harbour is the only station which shows increased attendance, owing to the division of the school there, a separate girls school having been established, which is already over full. Arrangements had been made for a thorough inspection by an inspector from Jamaica, but the withdrawal of the Cunard Line in July put a stop to his coming.

9. *Coin.*

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Considerable inconvenience has been caused from time to time from the amount of debased Mexican coin in circulation at far above its market value, a fact which was the cause of some quantity being bought up in New York at the current value, and being introduced here as a speculation. It is not a legal tender and is never accepted by the Government, and as the quantity of British silver in circulation is small, every shilling that comes into the hands of the merchants and tradesmen is put by for the payment of duties, and the Mexican is practically the only coin in circulation. An inquiry was instituted by the Government as to the best means of putting a stop to the importation, and generally of remedying the inconvenience, but before the Committee appointed had concluded their labours, the merchants took the law into their own hands and demonetized the Mexican coins, lowering the value at which they would accept the dollar from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*, and the half and quarter dollar from 2*s.* and 1*s.* (at which they had been previously taken) to 1*s.* 6*d.* and 9*d.* respectively, at which rates they are now current, and which are near enough to the market value to make the importation a loss. As these coins pass at their face values in St. Domingo and Hayti, with which places there is constant communication, it is believed that the Mexican money will gradually find its way there, now that the importation is stopped.

10. *Imports and Exports.*

The salt crop of 1886 was much below the average, as little over a million bushels were raked. This was owing to what is termed here "a dripping year," constant heavy showers occurring at seasons when the salt raker looks for dry weather, with high winds and bright sun. The heavy rains in January and February prevented the gathering of the spring crop, which the salt raker counts upon getting in before the April rains. As a good stock was on hand in January for immediate export, the loss of the spring crop would not have mattered much had there been a late season, as is frequently the case when the early season is spoilt; but instead of the raking being carried on into November, as has sometimes been done, September proved so wet as to finish the season. In Grand Turk 31 inches of rain fell as against 20 in the previous year, while Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour suffered even more severely, the rainfall at the former being 31·97 against 13·84 in 1885, and at the latter 34·20 against 16·07. The demand for salt was free, and the whole stock was exported, the total shipped being 1,591,374 bushels. The prices at the beginning of the season were low, averaging 6 to 7 cents a bushel f.o.b., but at the close of the season some cargoes went for large prices, as much as 13 cents a bushel being obtained and even more for small lots. There is every disposition here on the part of the salt exporters to deal liberally with purchasers, and if a fair price could only be agreed upon with the usual shippers, they could always count on

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getting cargoes at that rate. The high prices at the end of the season were chiefly obtained by men in a small way of business, who took advantage of the scarcity to get rid of stock which they had long been saving to sell at forced prices, and the large exporters in some cases shipped cargoes to their correspondents at a lower price than they themselves had to pay for the salt shipped, sooner than disappoint their regular customers. It is hoped that some arrangement may be made to settle the price more firmly at a figure that may be remunerative to the importer, and not absolutely ruinous to the salt raker, as 6 cents per bushel is. The preparation of the salt here has been greatly improved of late years, and it is now admitted that the Turks Islands' salt is the purest in any market. Fish cured with it will keep sound in tropical countries far longer than if cured with any other, a fact which has caused large salt fish importers in the Southern West Indies to ask that no other may be sent them. The total imports were valued at 30,165*l.* against 27,857*l.* in 1885. The difference is solely owing to the number of wrecks, the value of the lumber bought at wreck sales being nearly 600*l.* in excess of last year, while the logwood thus imported and re-exported was nearly 1,400*l.*, and the sale of wreck materials makes up the balance. I attach comparative tables of various trade and financial returns.

**VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES
in the years 1884, 1885, and 1886.**

Articles.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salt - - -	27,836 10 8	24,197 1 11	27,000 2 7
Cave earth - - -	4,028 9 0	1,818 18 4	—
Sponge - - -	489 13 11	356 18 0	282 5 10
Straw, shells, &c. - -	182 8 0	180 0 0	142 0 0
Totals - - -	32,537 1 7	26,552 13 3	27,424 8 5

VALUE of IMPORTS for the years 1884, 1885, and 1886.

—	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports - - -	26,623 1 5	27,857 16 2	30,165 5 2

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the six years 1880 to 1885; and EXPORT for the years 1885 and 1886.

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Ports.	1880 to 1885.	1885.	1886.
Grand Turk - - -	602,630	604,449	589,088
Salt Cay - - -	443,542	368,517	524,562
Cockburn Harbour -	487,091	655,254	477,774
Total Bushels -	1,523,263	1,628,220	1,591,374

Salt in the Colony on 31st December 1884 - 150,000 bushels.

„ „ „ 1885 - 450,000 „
 „ „ „ 1886 - 50,000 „

RAINFALL at GRAND TURK, SALT CAY, COCKBURN HARBOUR, and KEW for each month of the year 1886, compared with the average of five years.

Months.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January - - -	2·28	1·94	1·45	1·20
February - - -	2·75	1·58	2·63	·58
March - - -	·81	1·03	·79	·24
April - - -	2·52	4·69	5·65	6·32
May - - -	1·92	1·22	2·66	2·69
June - - -	1·73	2·09	1·84	5·24
July - - -	·37	·59	1·04	·97
August - - -	1·78	2·59	1·30	3·72
September - - -	6·35	8·09	7·10	12·98
October - - -	4·81	3·92	3·96	7·16
November - - -	3·16	2·39	4·63	8·91
December - - -	3·20	1·84	·95	5·97
Total - - -	31·68	31·97	34·20	55·98
Average for five years, 1882 to 1886 - -	27·02	23·11	24·58	43·16

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RETURN for the Year ending 31st December 1886.

	War Vessels.	Steamers.	Ships.	Barques.	Barquentines.	Brigs.	Brigantines.	Schooners.	Three-masted Schooners.	Total.
Vessels sighted from the light-house, passing through Turks Island passage by daylight - - -	1	39	1	42	16	3	70	79	38	289

NOTE.—This return only gives vessels coming from the north.

SCHEDULE of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC REVENUE
for the year 1886, in comparison with the preceding year 1885.

Imports.	1885.	1886.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Alcohol - - - - -	1 12 0	1 0 0
Ale, porter, cider, &c. - - - - -	12 16 6	7 16 8
Bay water - - - - -	15 8 0	13 0 0
Bread - - - - -	14 2 9	15 13 7
Butter - - - - -	55 1 4	57 14 11
Cheese - - - - -	22 12 10	21 13 0
Cigars - - - - -	18 17 8	6 11 0
Cordials - - - - -	1 2 6	—
Flour, wheat - - - - -	499 10 0	543 14 11
Lard - - - - -	81 12 0	76 10 11
Lumber and shingles - - - - -	35 18 2	95 6 2
Meat, salted and cured - - - - -	140 8 1	173 13 3
Oils - - - - -	28 8 11	27 4 0
Paint in oil - - - - -	10 7 5	14 14 7
Rice - - - - -	65 17 7	61 16 3
Rum, brandy, gin, cordials, &c. - - - - -	616 2 0	545 13 9
Soap - - - - -	42 9 1	50 12 7
Sugar - - - - -	175 11 6	271 15 10
Tea - - - - -	82 6 6	36 10 6
Tobacco - - - - -	51 7 10	44 2 0
Wine - - - - -	21 9 4	22 11 4
Ad valorem duties - - - - -	789 2 2	802 4 0
	2,726 19 2	2,889 19 3
<i>Other Sources of Revenue.</i>		
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on salt exported: in 1885—1,628,220 bushels; in 1886—1,591,374 bushels - - - - -	2,374 11 7	2,320 16 2
Light duties - - - - -	779 8 0	738 0 0
Auction duties - - - - -	26 6 10	65 16 4
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts - - - - -	128 5 7	71 1 2
Fees of office - - - - -	75 6 10	80 18 7
Postage - - - - -	146 8 8	162 15 8

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Imports.	1884.	1885.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Post Office Money Order commissions - -	8 13 9	13 18 5
Liquor licenses - - - - -	75 0 0	75 0 0
Wine " - - - - -	58 0 0	58 0 0
Dog Tax - - - - -	14 18 6	14 14 0
Sales, Crown land - - - - -	20 0 0	484 15 0
Lease " " - - - - -	53 12 6	98 9 8
Receipt from Imperial Post Office in aid of Mail Service - - - - -	300 0 0	225 0 0
Wharfage and Storage - - - - -	38 11 6	68 10 6
Miscellaneous - - - - -	194 19 8	135 5 8
Royalty on cave earth exported - - -	110 8 0	—
Special - - - - -	130 8 10	227 19 11
	4,534 15 3	4,840 16 6
<i>Recapitulation.</i>		
Imports - - - - -	2,726 19 2	2,889 19 3
Other sources - - - - -	4,534 15 3	4,840 16 6
	7,261 14 5	7,730 15 9
Balance from 1884 and 1885 - - -	2,495 3 4	2,680 12 0
	9,756 17 9	10,411 7 9
Expenditure for 1885 and 1886 - - -	7,076 5 9	8,264 11 5
Balance for 1886 and 1887 - - -	2,680 12 0	2,146 16 4

Agriculture.

The unusual rains, which spoil the salt crop, were of course favourable to planters, though nothing worthy of the name of agriculture can be said to be carried on in these Islands. The salt producing Islands will grow nothing, except an extremely small quantity of guinea corn. The Caicos Islands, with the exception of North Caicos, are little better. In years of drought they will not support the very scanty population scattered among them, which even in good years exists chiefly, and in some settlements entirely, by wrecking. The erection of a lighthouse on West Caicos would depopulate these Islands. The North Caicos Island differs from the rest of the group, and what soil is there is rich, but there is very little of it. It consists entirely of vegetable mould collected in the hollows of the rock, which crops up to the surface every few feet. The soil is at best about two feet deep, and when the trees are cleared to prepare for cultivation, and the surface exposed to the sun, it becomes rapidly impoverished, especially when the cleaning has been effected by fire, as is the universal practice there. Some kind of fertilizer would have to be used to keep up the production. An attempt was made about four years ago to start an agricultural settlement on the North Caicos, in a district which bears the auspicious name of Kew, and leases were grants for lots of 25 acres, under the terms of which the tenants were strictly bound to cultivate certain prescribed

TURKS
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vegetables and fruits. The idea was to supply the New York market with tomatoes and other vegetables, and pine-apples, oranges, and the different tropical fruits. The scheme was certainly sanguine and philanthropic, but it lacked all the practical elements of success. It required industry and knowledge on the part of the cultivators, and above all the means of communication with any market. With the grand fruit producing islands of Jamaica and San Domingo almost equidistant from New York with these, and with the Bahamas and Bermuda far nearer and with the frequent and regular communication between all these places and the United States, there was no chance for a small cay, lying three days journey from Grand Turk, to which port the produce must be brought, and where it must lie for an uncertain period, varying from days to weeks, until one of the merchant steamers running between New York and San Domingo, having leisurely filled up her cargo, called here on her way home. By confining their efforts, or rather, for the people of that settlement are incapable of effort, by allowing corn and root crops, bananas and plantains to grow, the inhabitants of North Caicos could not only live, but be fairly prosperous, as the yams, sweet potatoes, and fruit consumed in Grand Turk now come principally from San Domingo, while the import of corn from the United States last year was over a thousand bushels. To aid the people in selling their crops, regular subsidized communication between Kew and Grand Turk has been established, but it is too early yet to judge of the effect.

12. *General remarks.*

The prospects for 1887 are decidedly encouraging, as, so far as it is possible to judge at this early season, there is every chance of an exceptionally good salt crop, the pans being in excellent order, and the weather up to now very favourable.

The general health of the Islands is excellent, the death rate for 1886 being 17 per thousand. Even in the height of summer there is never wanting a fresh sea breeze, and residence on these Islands has all the advantages of a sea voyage, with a minimum of the discomforts. The effect of the climate upon diseases of the chest and heart is something marvellous, and I believe, if its curative properties were more widely known, many persons would seek these Islands as a health resort.

During the past year I have leased a small cay close to Grand Turk as a sheep farm, and the lessee tells me he has every reason to be satisfied with his prospects of success, as the sheep are thriving and multiplying. The want of fresh meat, which has hitherto been felt as a drawback in these Islands, could therefore be easily overcome, if only there were a regular demand.

Communication, since the withdrawal in July of the Cunard Line, has been limited to the steamers from the United States to San Domingo and Hayti, of which there are three lines calling

here, the Clyde and Dominican lines from New York, and the Diamond Line from Boston. These steamers are all very irregular, having no time table, but they call on an average about once a fortnight.

The stoppage of the Cunard Line has been attended with exceeding inconvenience in the administration of Government, as all correspondence with the Governor-in-Chief at Jamaica has to be sent via New York, the communication with which, though fairly frequent, is to the last degree irregular, and it takes nine or ten weeks on an average to obtain an answer. It is reported that an attempt is about to be made by the Halifax Steam Navigation Company to run a steamer, on the same route as that followed by the Cunard Company, viz., from Halifax to Bermuda, Turks Islands and Kingston, but nothing definite is yet known of this scheme.

The small salt crop of the past year, giving less work, led to an increase of pauperism, and at any time the condition of the labouring class here is very wretched, for though the wages in the salt season are good, the work is never continuous, and the people have to face long periods of enforced idleness.

The rate of expenditure per head of population on imported goods has been taken as a basis from which to draw favourable conclusions as to the prosperity of the community here, but that is no guide where these Settlements are concerned. Our population is now as nearly as possible 5,000, and of these three fourths are settled in the salt Islands of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour). These islands produce absolutely nothing whatever for the consumption of the people living on them, and to apply to them the same rule as to other West Indian islands must give false results. In Jamaica, for instance, with its fertile soil, on which will grow everything the native inhabitant requires for food and drink, where his tobacco may be gathered wild, and which will supply him with the material to build and roof his house, and the grass or fibre from which to weave his hammock or to plait his bed and chair, and with the gourd to form his plate and cup, it is quiet conceivable that a man may be far removed from poverty, and yet that his expenditure on imported goods may be absolutely "nil." His money is given for native produce, and there is nothing to show what he really spends. On these barren sand banks the imports represent every penny of expenditure in every class of life. Save for a very small quantity of fish, caught with difficulty owing to the rough seas which invest these reefs, every single article of consumption must come from without. Food, drink, clothing, the lumber to build even the poorest hut, and the refuse "Boston chips" with which to roof it, even the very fodder for the animals working in the salt ponds, all must swell the total import. I have prepared a table which is given below showing what the expenditure per head of population actually is, and that table represents the whole expenditure. Nothing goes in buying native produce, for there is none to buy

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The total imports for 1886 were valued at 30,165*l.*, but from this total must be taken goods in transit, 4,960*l.* and specie 1,800*l.*, that is, 6,760*l.* together, leaving total imports for use in these islands 23,405*l.*, or about 5*l.* per head of population, if we take the census of 1881, which gave 4,700, as still correct, and do not allow for increase.

Description of Article.	Value of import.	Ratio per head of Population.
<i>Necessaries.</i>		
	£	£ s. d.
All food stuffs, live stock, and tea, coffee, and cocoa - - - -	11,018	2 7 0
Clothing and materials - - - -	5,291	1 2 6
Household necessities of all kinds, and cleaning and lighting material - -	1,595	0 7 0
*Lumber and all building material for houses or vessels and all ships' stores -	2,180	0 9 3
Trade, professional, and educational appliances and material - - - -	756	0 3 2
Oats, hay, and other fodder - - -	874	0 3 9
	21,709	4 12 8
<i>Superfluities.</i>		
Wine, ale, spirits, and aerated waters -	777	0 3 3
Tobacco - - - -	469	0 2 0
†Luxuries (carriages, toys, musical instruments, jewellery, perfumery, &c.) -	450	0 1 11
	1,696	0 7 2
Total imports - - -	23,405	4 19 10

* This item, which includes wreck materials, is nearly double the usual amount, owing to the number of wrecks, of which there were eight; and also to two of them having been partly laden with lumber, of which over 130,000 feet was saved and brought to Grand Turk.

† Of this amount 68*l.* is for Bay Water, less than a tenth of which is used here, the remainder being retailed on board the steamers calling here.

Even though the foregoing figures may compare favourably with the expenditure per head of population on imported goods in other colonies, yet, if the fact be borne in mind that, as I have before explained, they represent the entire expenditure per head for food, clothing, and shelter, and that nearly 4 per cent. of the imports consists of fodder for the animals employed in the salt ponds, I think the most sceptical will confess that the mass of the people are of the poorest. I know from experience that those whose duty it is to endeavour to minimize the expenditure on poor relief have no easy or pleasant task.

In spite of all their hardships the people are tall and well grown, cheerful and orderly, and the rapidity with which they load the vessels with salt is only equalled, and not surpassed, by the work done on the coal barges at Malta or Madeira. The absence of

any serious crime, although the pinch of hunger must sometimes be sharp, speaks volumes for the people, and in many hearing and frank self-respect, entirely free from affectation or conceit, easy towards his superiors and yet perfectly respectful, the coloured native of these small cays compares most favourably with his brethren in any part of the West Indies.

TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO
ISLANDS.

Grand Turk,
9th February 1887.

H. M. JACKSON,
Commissioner.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 15.

Governor W. J. SENDALL to the Right Hon. Sir H. T.
HOLLAND, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

SIR, St. Vincent, April 16, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Grenada for the year 1886, together with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE COLONY OF GRENADA FOR THE YEAR 1886.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

The only changes to be noted under this head is the fixing of a license fee on legal practitioners on their commencing business in the Colony, and the abolition of the license fee on midwives.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony collected during the year 1886 amounted to 43,142*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, and the expenditure was 44,900*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*

Of these amounts, however, 736*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* may be set down as fictitious revenue, and 1,506*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* as fictitious expenditure, being, on the revenue side, amounts received as refunds of expenditure made during the year or portions of revenue refunded, and, on the expenditure side, amounts expended and directly refunded within the year, or amounts merely transferred from one fund to another, but still continuing in the hands of the treasurer, leaving a net revenue of 42,405*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, and an actual expenditure of 43,393*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*

GRENADA.

The revenue, as will be seen, falls somewhat short of the amount estimated for the year, whilst the expenditure is slightly in excess, yet the finances of the Colony are so far in a good position that a surplus of 3,470*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* has been carried forward to the 1st January 1887. This is exclusive of the surpluses to the credit of the special funds and savings bank.

The falling off in the revenue is principally due to the diminution under the head of excise duty on locally manufactured rum. A proportion of the rum now consumed in the Colony is imported, the duty on which though collected at the same rate as excise duty is classed under the head of Customs. The receipts under the head of licenses is also below the estimate, as is also that received under the head of rates and taxes. Of these latter the water rate at Carriacou was left uncollected, owing to the distress prevalent there caused by the long continued drought.

The principal items on which the expenditure was in excess of the estimates are: police, exclusive of the establishment, repairs to public buildings, finishing Grenville Court House, the erection of a hospital at Carriacou, the establishment of meteorological observatories, the maintenance of public highways, including 332*l.* spent on public byeways. The postal service has also required an expenditure of 250*l.* in excess of the estimate, partly due to the increase of inland post business and partly for providing dies for new stamps and stamps, &c. Under the head of Crown Agents there is an excess over the estimated expenditure of 224*l.*, owing to the fact that when the estimates were drawn it was intended that the Crown Agents should draw upon the Colony. This plan was not carried out, and the former system of remitting to the Crown Agents has been continued. It may be observed that, although not in excess of the estimate, yet the outdoor relief afforded to the poor of Carriacou during the first half of the year was large.

The following comparative statement gives particulars of the principal items of the revenue and expenditure in 1885 and 1886:—

Revenue.	1885.	1886.	Expenditure.	1885.	1886.
	£	£		£	£
Customs - -	20,037	21,574	Establishment -	18,435	19,075
			Pensions - -	1,197	827
Excise - -	9,433	7,171*	Education - -	2,728	2,932
			Police - -	648	948
Licenses - -	2,489	2,332	Hospitals and Asylums.	3,683	3,189
Stamps revenue -	2,419	2,505	Works and buildings	3,757	3,044†
			Roads and bridges -	5,864	5,259†
Rates and taxes -	4,988	4,906	Postal service -	796	1,045

* $\frac{3}{4}$ ths only of excise included here; the other $\frac{1}{4}$ th, amounting to 895*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, was carried direct to immigration.

† In the above figures for 1886 no notice is taken of the Public Works Loan, either in revenue or expenditure.

The financial position of the Colony on the 1st January 1887 GRENADA.
was as follows :—

ASSETS.			LIABILITIES.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash balance in the Treasurer's hands - - -	10,894	1 3	Due to Immigration Fund - -	6,943	2 0
Cash and bills in hands of Crown Agents - - -	3,719	17 6	" St. George's Town Fund - -	42	4 10
Amount in hands of immigration agent at Calcutta - - -	92	10 4	" Grenville Harbour Fund - -	387	19 3
Loan to Tobago - - -	1,000	0 0	" Streets Fund - -	172	15 5
Charges on ditto - - -	5	10 2	" Governor's Office Fund - -	75	17 4
Due from St. George's Town Fund, portion of Public Works Loan - - -	800	0 0	" Savings Bank - -	3,661	15 4
Amounts due from out islands, for proportion of Governor's salary and office expenses - -	238	2 11	" Government of St. Lucia, expenses of Judge Car- rington - - -	48	15 6
Do., for telegrams - - -	7	9 4	" Orders on Crown Agents unexecuted - - -	1,193	19 0
Do., for maintenance of lunatics - -	776	6 6	" Crown Agents in con- nexion with Public Works Loan - - -	10,000	0 0
Do., from Tobago for prisoner - -	7	6 3	" debenture holders under the Public Works Loan Ordinance - - -	275	0 0
Do., from St. Lucia, salary of Director of Public Works - -	9	17 11			
Excess of liabilities - - -	5,249	6 6			
Total - - -	22,800	8 8	Total - - -	22,800	8 8

Public Debt.

The public debt has been decreased during the year by 1,000*l.* paid to Mr. F. Marrast as a yearly instalment in repayment of his loan to immigration, but increased under the Public Works Loan Ordinance by 10,275*l.*, of which 2,504*l.* has been spent on special works and buildings and 6,744*l.* in construction and re-construction of special roads.

Public Works.

The total expenditure amounted to 17,533*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, of which 8,304*l.* 16*s.* was from the general revenue of the Colony, *i.e.*, 3,044*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* for "works and buildings," 5,259*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* for the maintenance of roads and bridges, including the mules and carts, and 9,248*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* expended under the Public Works Loan, *i.e.*, 2,503*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* for special works and buildings, and 6,744*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* for construction of roads, &c. In addition to this 800*l.* was spent from the loan money in the erection of market sheds in St. George's.

Under the head of works and buildings paid out of the general revenue of the Colony, the principal are the repairs, almost re-construction, of No. 2 warehouse, the finishing of the Grenville Court House, the removal of the hospital from St. Patrick to Carriacou, the conversion of an escheated building in the town of Victoria into a police station and court house, the repairs and additions to the gaoler's quarters at Richmond Hill, the repairs to the sergeant-major of police quarters, and the establishment of two meteorological stations.

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Under the head of maintenance of roads from general revenue it may be noted a sum of 332*l.* was spent during the year upon repairs of public byeways, an expenditure formerly provided by special local assessments.

Under the Public Works Loan the principal works undertaken were, the new offices at Government House, the repairs to Government House itself, the infirmary at the Richmond Hill prison, new school houses at River Sallee and Grand Roy, the re-construction of the public road from St. George to Grand Etang, of a portion of the road from Gonyave eastward to Grenville, of which 1½ miles were finished, including the building of two causeways and two large culverts ; also the Mount St. Ervan and Tivoli roads, both in the parish of St. Andrew.

Legislation.

The following Ordinances have been passed during the year by the Legislative Council :—

No. 1. An Ordinance to amend the Coroner's Ordinance, 1884.

No. 2. An Ordinance to amend the law in respect of defamatory words and libels.

No. 3. An Ordinance to legalise the expenditure of certain sums of money paid from the general revenue for the service of the year 1885, in addition to the sums already sanctioned under the Appropriation Ordinance, 1885.

No. 4. An Ordinance to amend the Police Ordinance, 1885.

No. 5. An Ordinance to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Ordinance, 1882.

No. 6. An Ordinance to regulate the practice of midwifery.

No. 7. An Ordinance to provide for the termination of the occupancy of lands held incidental to service, and for the appraisalment and payment of the value of growing crops on such lands.

No. 8. An Ordinance to amend an Ordinance to authorise the Governor in Executive Council to raise a loan for the purpose of various permanent public works, and for the construction of roads in this Colony.

No. 9. An Ordinance to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Amendment Ordinance, 1886.

No. 10. An Ordinance to make provision for the preservation of the public byeways of Grenada and Carriacou.

No. 11. An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of parochial boards, and for the management and regulation of towns.

No. 12. An Ordinance to amend the Education Ordinance, 1885.

No. 3. An Ordinance to amend the Import Duties Ordinance, 1881, and to increase the import duty payable on goods

not specifically mentioned in Schedule A. or not contained in Schedule B. to the said Ordinance.

No. 14. An Ordinance to amend the Excise Amendment Ordinance, 1882.

No. 15. An Ordinance to suspend the levying of all export duties during the year 1887.

No. 16. An Ordinance to amend the Amending Police Ordinance, 1886.

Councils

The Legislative Council was strengthened by the addition of two official members, the Hon. C. Messervy, Director of Public Works, and J. Semper, Auditor, and by two unofficial members, the Hon. W. S. Comissiong and D. Alexander; these gentlemen were appointed by virtue of additional instructions passed under the Royal Signet and Sign Manual, dated 26th August 1886. This instrument limits the duration of the appointment of unofficial members of the Council to six years.

The Hon. James Mill having resigned, his place was filled by the appointment of the Hon. James Paterson.

The Hon. H. R. Pipon Schooles, Attorney General, F. Batt, C. Macaulay Browne, G. W. Williamson, and F. Harford were absent on leave for short periods during the year, and their places were temporarily filled by the Hons. W. S. Comissiong, J. R. Bertrand, W. J. Smith, T. E. Passee, and J. Fleming respectively.

Civil Establishment.

The following changes have occurred in the fixed establishment.

During the temporary absences of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief at other islands in this Government, Captain Maling, the Colonial Secretary, administered the Government; these occasions were from 8th to 20th March, from 14th June to 16th July, and again from 4th September to the end of the year.

On the 1st July 1886 the offices of Colonial Registrar and Provost Marshal were abolished, and the office of Registrar of the Supreme Court, which combines the duties of those officials, was created. The Colonial Registrar, Mr. Dillon, was retired with a compensation allowance, and Mr. Drayton, the Provost Marshal, was appointed to the new office. Mr. George A. Jackson, who had held the appointment of clerk to the Provost Marshal, was transferred to the office of the Registrar as second clerk; Mr. A. E. Roche, who had previously held the appointment of second clerk to the Colonial Registrar, being promoted to the clerkship in the office of the Director of Public Works. The staff of the Registrar's Office was strengthened by the appointment of Mr. W. J. McKenzie to be third clerk.

Mr. J. M. Lash, who had been selected by the Secretary of State to fill the appointment of gaoler, arrived in the Colony and assumed the duties of his appointment on the 13th February.

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Mr. J. H. A. Berkeley, a revenue officer, resigned his appointment during the month of October; his place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. E. H. Moore.

On account of the increase of work in the Audit Office it was found necessary to grant the auditor the assistance of a second clerk; Mr. H. A. Martin was appointed to the newly created office.

Mr. R. J. Graves was appointed a road surveyor.

Mr. W. R. Elliott who had been previously employed in Jamaica as one of the staff of the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations, was appointed curator of the newly established Botanic Garden in this island.

Mr. H. R. Pipon Schooles, the Attorney General, was absent on leave from 16th May to 16th December; during this period the duties of Attorney General were discharged by Mr. W. S. Comissiong.

The Chief Justice, Mr. John Foster Gresham, was absent on leave from the 8th August to the 8th November; Mr. John W. Carrington, D.C.L., performed the duties of the Chief Justice during this period.

Dr. Bennett, the Medical Officer of District No. 4, was absent on leave from the 18th April to the 5th November, his duties were discharged by Dr. Boyd, a medical officer from St. Vincent.

Securities of Public Officers.

The bonds given by the several public officers required to do so by law are in due form and the names of the several securities on behalf of these public officers are those of men good and sufficient for the amounts for which they are respectively bound.

Pensions and Gratuities.

The pension list has been increased by the addition of a pension to Mr. G. A. Dillon, on the abolition of his office as "Colonial Registrar," of 58*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and by the proportion of pension payable by Grenada to Mr. Arthur Gall, sometime since treasurer of this Colony, by 33*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

Population.

At the end of 1885 the estimated population of the Colony was as follows :—

Males	-	-	-	-	22,125
Females	-	-	-	-	24,299
Total	-	-	-	-	<u>46,424</u>

The estimated population at the end of the year under report was 47,364, consisting of 22,629 males and 24,735 females. The

increase of population was 940, namely, 504 males and 436 females; the proportions of the sexes were 109·34 females to 100 males, or 91·48 males to 100 females.

The following table exhibits the increase of population in each parish as compared with 1885:—

	1885.	1886.
St. George - - - -	176	182
St. John - - - -	106	123
St. Mark - - - -	35	81
St. Patrick - - - -	117	161
St. Andrew - - - -	123	263
St. David - - - -	64	77
Carriacou - - - -	136	53

From this year's return it will be seen that the first quarter exhibits a larger increase than any other, the minimum increase being in the second quarter, when only 207 were added to the population.

Marriages.

The number of marriages solemnized during the year was 255 or 34 more than in 1885. Of these 82 were solemnized by clergymen of the Church of England; 155 by Roman Catholics; 14 by the Wesleyans, and 4 by the Presbyterians. The largest number occurred in the quarter ended 30th June, viz., 74.

Births.

The number of births recorded was 1,973; of these 1,019 were males and 954 females, being eight more than those registered in 1885.

The birth rate was 4·25 per cent. as against 4·32 in 1885.

Illegitimacy.

The births set down as illegitimate numbered 1,051, or 1 in 88. In 1885 they numbered 1,078, or 1 in 82. The percentage of illegitimate births on the total births registered in 1886 was 53·27 as against 54·91 in 1885.

Baptisms.

Of these 2,039 were solemnized during the year; 786 by the Church of England, 1,104 by the Roman Catholics, 105 by the Wesleyans, and 44 by the Presbyterians.

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Deaths.

The number of deaths registered was 1,033, viz., 515 males and 518 females, being 175 less than in 1885.

The death rate for the year was 2·23 per cent., and is made up as follows :—

Children under 1 year	-	-	·73 per cent.
From 1 to 15 years	-	-	·49 „
Adults	-	-	1·01 „

The following table shows the birth and death rates, including still births, from 1882 to 1886.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth rate.	Death rate.	
1882	-	42,788	1,914	945	4·47	2·21
1883	-	43,757	1,913	941	4·37	2·15
1884	-	44,729	1,869	1,103	4·17	2·46
1885	-	45,495	1,965	1,208	4·32	2·60
1886	-	46,424	1,973	1,033	4·25	2·23

The two following tables give the quarters of the year since 1880 in which births and deaths are most frequent in this Colony, from which it appears that the largest average is in the last quarter of the year. This has been ascertained on reference to the register book of births and deaths since the above date.

Births in each quarter, 1880 to 1886.

Quarter ended	Number of Births.	Proportion per cent.
31 March - - -	3,496	26·23
30 June - - -	3,086	23·15
30 September - - -	3,100	23·26
31 December - - -	3,646	27·86
Total - - -	13,328	100·00

Deaths in each Quarter, 1880 to 1886.

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Quarter ended	Number of Deaths.	Proportion per cent.
31 March - - -	1,825	24·76
30 June - - -	1,527	20·72
30 September - -	1,822	24·72
31 December - -	2,197	29·80
Total - - -	7,371	100·00

Savings Bank.

The business of the savings bank still continues to increase. The balance in hand on the 31st December being 3,661*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* as against 2,570*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* in the previous year. This increase is partly formed by making the Police Reward Fund a deposit in the savings bank. The amount of this is, however, small, being not much more than 130*l.*

Education.

The Inspector of schools in his report states that the number of scholars on roll, the annual average, the number of examimates, and the school fees show a falling off in 1886 as compared with 1885. The first has decreased by 653, the second 235, the third 354, and the fourth 45*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, all in a great measure due to the extremely wet weather which prevailed from the middle of May to almost the close of the year, preventing most of the children living in mountainous districts from attending the schools. During the early part of the year the drought, a continuation of several years of dry weather in Carriacou, had reduced most of the people of that island to such a state of poverty that they were unable to provide clothes or school fees to send their children to the schools, which were sparsely attended in consequence, but when the wet season set in, in May, all available labour, even that of the smallest children was taken advantage of in the cultivation of their plots of ground, so that the attendance which was bad at the beginning was still worse at the close of the year.

The assisted schools appear to have been very indifferently supplied with books and other school requisites by the parents and teachers, not one manager having sent in an order for school materials during the whole year. The ill effects of this parsimony were very noticeable in the annual examinations. The Government Schools at Birch Grove and Concord are working very satisfactorily, and though so recently established stand in the front rank of the primary schools.

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Two other Government school houses are in course of erection, one at Grand Roy the other at River Sallée; at both of these places there is a large population. They are expected to be in active operation in the course of the next two or three months. The Inspector of schools also points out the pressing want of a good model school in St. George's, where a number of pupil-teachers might be trained under an efficient master so as to supply the vacancies in the primary schools when the need for fresh teachers arises. Without this the Colony will be dependent upon the sister colonies for a supply of schoolmasters as it is at present.

The Education Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1886, came into operation in December, and under one of its provisions a new board has been appointed.

Comparative Statement.

Year.	No. on Books December 31st.	Annual Average.	Examinates.	School Fees.
1885 - -	3,321	1,805	1,577	£ s. d. 478 2 10½
1886 - -	2,668	1,570	1,223	432 13 7½
Decrease -	653	235	354	45 9 3

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports shows a total of 120,337*l.* as against 138,105*l.* in 1885. This diminution in the value of imports is not, however, to be taken as an indication of decreasing prosperity of the island in a pecuniary point of view, as the following comparison of the exports of the island for the two years will show. The value of those for 1885 being 178,721*l.* and those of 1886 180,691*l.* The same causes which contributed to the decrease of the value of imports last year continue, the principal of which is the almost extinction of the sugar industry in the island and its results.

The amount of sugar exported in 1885 was 16,983 cwt., and that of the same shipped in 1886 1,541½ cwt. The increase in the value of exports is due to the extension of the cocoa and spice industries. Of cocoa there was exported 51,979½ cwt. as against 49,131 cwt. in 1885, whilst the spices in 1886 was 179,984 lbs. as against 110,768 lbs. in 1885.

Shipping.

Four hundred and fifty sailing and 105 steam vessels entered at the several ports of this Colony during the year with an aggregate tonnage of 181,801 tons. And 471 sailing and 62 steam vessels cleared from the several ports.

As compared with 1885 the number of vessels which entered was less in 1886 by 35, but the carrying capacity was greater by 38,553 tons. This latter is accounted for by the increase in the number of steam vessels entering, the increase being 17 ships.

Prisons.

The number of persons committed to prison was 206, being 15 less than in 1885, and of this number only 149, or 19 less than in 1885, were for purposes of penal imprisonment. The daily average of males in prison was 53·10, of females 6·25, the highest number on any one day was males 66, females 12; the lowest, males 41, females 1.

The recommittals were nearly 33 per cent. on the committals; but this includes re-convictions for minor offences, as well as those cognizable by the Supreme Court.

The gross cost of the prisons during the year was 1,298*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, and the value of the prisoners' work is estimated at 1,110*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, the net cost was, therefore, 188*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* All the bread and cocoa consumed at public institutions is now supplied by prison labour, at a saving to the Treasury of 630*l.* 5*s.* 6*s.*; over 13,000 bushels of broken stone were supplied for public works and various other work performed, involving a saving. Taking, however, the gross expenditure the cost of a prisoner in 1886 was 22*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, being 1*l.* 7*s.* less than in 1885 and 1*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* less than the average of the last four years. The cost of the dietary has been reduced from 4½*d.* a head per day in 1885 to 3½*d.* in 1886, and a progressive scale suggested by the registrar is now under consideration which should further reduce this item.

While the punishments are of a mild nature, more than half being the simplest form of dietary punishment, deprivation of morning bread and tea, discipline is strictly enforced. Corporal punishment was only resorted to in cases of escapes, which are so frequent as to require stern and exceptional treatment.

An East Indian immigrant was hanged in August for wife murder.

The abnormal prevalence of diarrhoea and dysentery in 1885 ceased early in 1886 upon the removal from the cells of galvanized iron water buckets, and the substitution of large tin pannikins for them, which goes to show that the diseases were due to some form of metallic poisoning.

On the whole the progress made by this department under the efficient management of Mr. E. Drayton, the registrar, in the last two years is very satisfactory, and radical changes in the present system of discipline which are contemplated will, without doubt, further improve it.

The officer selected by the Secretary of State as keeper of the Richmond Hill Prison gives satisfaction in the discharge of his duties.

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CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Police Report.

The number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates during the year was 1,451, a decrease of 133 on the number reported in 1885.

Apprehensions and Summonses.

The number of persons brought before the magistrates' courts was 1,451, as compared with 1,554 in the previous year. The cases were disposed of as follows :—

Convicted	-	-	-	-	662
Discharged	-	-	-	-	510
Acquitted	-	-	-	-	242
Sent on for trial to superior courts				-	37

Summary Convictions.

The number of summary convictions in the magistrates' courts was 662.

Indictments and Informations in the Superior Courts.

The total number of cases tried in the superior courts was 48, an increase of two upon the number of cases in 1885. Among the convictions was one case of murder. The murderer was a coolie, who murdered a coolie woman with whom he cohabited. The murderer was executed.

The cases tried in the superior courts were disposed of as follows :—

Judgment for the Crown	-	-	-	24
Judgment for the prisoner	-	-	-	11
Cases fell through for want of prosecution, &c.	-	-	-	13

HOSPITALS.

Colony Hospital.

Three hundred males and 109 females were admitted into this hospital during the year, making, with 31 males and 17 females who were inmates of the hospital on the 1st January 1886, a total of 457. Of these 292 were discharged cured, 87 were relieved, and 24 died ; there remained on the 31st December 1886, 54 patients, namely, 32 males and 22 females. The number of cases treated exceeded those of last year by 63, and the deaths were 24—16 males and 8 females. The per-centage on the number of cases treated (457) was 5·25. The daily average in the hospital was 34 males and 56 females.

The average daily cost of each patient was 1s. 1½d.

*Yaws Hospital.*GRENADA.

There were at the beginning of the year 54 patients, 30 males and 24 females; and 178 males and 82 females were admitted during the year. The daily average was 140. The total number cured was 241, and 1 died.

St. Andrew's Hospital.

Fifteen males and two females remained in this hospital on the 1st January 1886. During the year there were admitted 88 males and 23 females, making the total number of patients under treatment 128. The daily average in hospital was 9 males and 2 females. The number discharged cured was 83 males and 20 females, and 4 males died.

St. John's Hospital.

The total number of patients under treatment during the year was 87 males and 28 females, the daily average being 6 males and 3 females. 64 males and 20 females were cured, and 3 males and 1 female died.

Lunatic Asylum.

The number of patients remaining in this institution on the 1st January 1886 amounted to 68, 29 males and 39 females. During the year there were 15 admitted, 14 males and 1 female. The daily average number of lunatics in the asylum was 76.

Seven inmates (3 males and 4 females) were discharged, and 5 died (4 males and 1 female). The cost of maintenance per head was 16*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* The general sanitary condition of the asylum throughout the year was satisfactory.

Poorhouse.

There were 47 inmates, 25 males and 22 females, in this institution in the beginning of the year. The admissions numbered 17, 8 males and 9 females, making a total of 64 patients for the year, and a daily average of 48. 5 inmates left during the year; 1 was discharged for misconduct, 2 left of their own free will, 1 was transferred to the Colony Hospital for treatment, and 1 was discharged as not being a fit case for admission. The deaths numbered 11, 5 males and 6 females, being 5 less than in the former year. The cost of maintenance per head was 10*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

General Remarks.

The year 1886 will be marked in the history of the island for the establishment of a Botanical Garden, the continuance of the

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drought in Carriacou, the contraction of a public debt for carrying out works of general utility, and the formation of parochial boards in the several towns and parishes of the island.

Botanic Garden.

The garden, consisting of about 15 acres, under the superintendence of Mr. W. R. Elliott, the curator, was commenced about the middle of the year, and it may be considered as fairly established, and full attention can now be given to the main objects for which it was formed, namely, the introduction and distribution of plants of great economic value, the supply of practical hints respecting new and promising industries, and the developing and improving of existing minor products. To assist the curator in furthering these objects a committee, consisting of nine members, has been appointed.

The grounds have been fenced in, laid out, and a large number of plants have been planted out, all of which are doing remarkably well. A good supply of water is being brought into the garden from certain springs, situated about a quarter of a mile from the garden, for a very small outlay.

Drought in Carriacou.

The drought continued until about the month of August, when it gave place to copious and continued rains, which have rewarded the exertions of the agriculturalists with large crops of cotton and provisions, the principal products of the island. During the prevalence of the drought a considerable proportion of the able-bodied labouring population emigrated to the neighbouring islands, but returned as soon as the change of weather gave an opening for their labour in their native island.

Contraction of Public Debt.

In view of the general dilapidated state of the public roads and buildings in the island it was deemed necessary to raise money by way of a loan to put these in a more satisfactory condition. The sum of 10,275*l.* was obtained principally as an advance from the Crown Agents. Of this 9,248*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* was spent on the works above indicated, and 800*l.* lent to the St. George's Town Fund for the erection of new market sheds in that town, leaving a small balance of the loan money in hand to continue operations in 1887.

Formation of Parochial Boards.

In each parish of the island, six in number, and in the district formed by the island of Carriacou, parochial boards have been established, to which have been transferred various powers formerly

GRENADA.
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vested in the general Government; amongst these are the levying of taxes in the several townships, of rates, taxes, tolls, &c., the levying of assessments, for the up-keep of byeways in the parishes, and the expenditure of these taxes, tolls, &c., for the purposes for which they are levied. The members of these boards are partly nominated by the Governor and partly elected by the duly qualified male parishioners. Considerable interest was generally shown by the inhabitants of the Colony at the election of members of these boards, which took place in the month of November last.

IRWIN C. MALING,
Administrator.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST
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No. 16.

Governor W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the Right Hon.
EDWARD STANHOPE, M.P.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, November 9, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, the accompanying sanitary reports on the stations of Cape Coast, Elmina and Quittah, for the quarter ending on the 30th of September 1886, and for Accra for the first three quarters of the year.

2. Dealing firstly with the Accra Report, the Chief Medical Officer remarks: "Being, as I am, penetrated with a strong desire to see the towns on the coast improved in a sanitary point of view, I am glad to be able to say that at last sanitary projects are being put in force quickly and effectively."

3. With regard to what Dr. McCarthy remarks about latrines at Accra, I transmit copies of a printed notice which I directed the officer acting at the time as District Commissioner to have circulated among the Kings and Chiefs of James and Ussher Towns for the information of the people dwelling in them. I am informed that the latter have gladly availed themselves of these conveniences and are thankful for them. The Surveyor General has been directed to build a latrine for women at the locality on the beach which they have been accustomed to frequent. Shortly after the road to the place had been commenced, several women and some men protested against its being proceeded with on the plea that the particular ground selected and the position for the intended latrine were under the guardianship of some fetish, and the workmen and labourers were threatened with personal violence if they did not desist. Matters at last looked so serious that the Surveyor General came to me to report and to ask for instructions, whereupon I immediately telegraphed to Mr. Cleland, who is the

GOLD COAST.

King of James Town in which the work was to be carried out, to see me; and on his arrival I explained the matter to him and requested that he would remonstrate with his people on the folly of their conduct, because the work was being undertaken for their advantage. Mr. Cleland very kindly promised to do all he could to put matters right, and owing to his intervention in two days afterwards the work was continued. The earth excavated was removed by women labourers, some of the same who had just before been violently opposed to the undertaking. This occurrence points to the necessity for prudence, tact, and firmness in dealing with the natives, who frequently in their conduct remind one of overgrown and spoiled children.

4. The water supply of Accra and of many of the coast towns is a serious matter, which I am endeavouring to grapple with. At Cape Coast a large tank will shortly be completed which will be of great service to the town. The military are not likely to avail themselves of it, as since they ceased to get condensed water they have preferred to draw their supplies from the tanks in the Castle. For Salt Pond 1,500*l.* has been placed on the estimates for 1887 for a tank and collecting ground for 100,000 gallons of water for the people of the town. Storage for 15,000 gallons of water is being provided at Winnebah; and now the people of Prampram are threatened with a water famine, and, through the Commissioner, are begging that a tank may be built in their town. I am having inquiry made into this matter. At Accra I regret to say that the reservoir, to which the Chief Medical Officer refers, is going to cost more than double the estimate furnished by Mr. Jones, the Assistant Surveyor, when acting for Mr. Pagan. A report upon the matter has been furnished to me by the latter, from which it appears that the estimate of 1,087*l.* 12*s.* will be exceeded by 1,325*l.* if the work is carried on. It would simply be throwing away the money already spent if the reservoir was abandoned. The Surveyor General's report upon the matter has just reached me, but I am not at all satisfied with it. I catechised him some time ago as to the public works on hand, and when I referred to the reservoir, which had then been some time in progress, he shook his head and remarked that the money would not be enough. I told him that there was the estimate of its cost. To this he replied that it was not his estimate. "But," I rejoined, "it was made by "Mr. Jones, who at the time was acting as Surveyor General." He did not reply, but told me subsequently the reservoir would cost double the money. I will bring the subject to your notice again in a separate Despatch. Meanwhile, I intend to circulate the report among members of Council in order to get their assent to the continuance of the reservoir to completion.

5. Dr. McCarthy makes an interesting and useful statement respecting the rainfall at New Site. From the 1st of January to the 30th of October only $21\frac{30}{100}$ inches of rain had fallen. On the 5th instant I measured $\frac{25}{100}$ from a fine shower, which spread over a large area and brought up the total rainfall for the year to 5th November to $22\frac{1}{4}$ inches. With so small a supply of water, and very little if any more can be looked for again this year,

unless it should come in a few days with the full moon, the question of water must be one of anxiety to the Government. With the object of providing a steady and continuous supply I have directed Mr. Pagan, as soon as he can spare the time, to inspect localities between the Seccoom River, Aburi, and Akropong, so as to ascertain whether water can be obtained in unfailing and sufficient quantity, which could be collected in a large volume in some convenient position and brought down by pipeage to Accra. If the water can be discovered it will be well worth the outlay necessary to convey it to the town.

6. The Chief Medical Officer's suggestion as to trying for water by the use of Norton's boring tubes will be referred to the Surveyor General for him to consider and report on.

7. The cactus forest, a nest of filth and dirt, a hotbed for disease, and a refuge for dangerous snakes, is, I am glad to be in a position to state, fast disappearing and will soon be a thing of the past. With regard to the pig nuisance, I shall not be able to get that removed until the Public Works Department has completed some of the numerous undertakings it has on hand. But in saying this, I beg you to believe that I will keep the matter steadily in view until it has been dealt with, for any visitor to Accra, even if his nose and eyes are not diligent, cannot help being aware of the dreadful nuisance the pigs are in every part of the town.

8. Under the title of General Health the Chief Medical Officer has written an interesting essay, the main object of which is to point out the benefits he considers would be derived by taking advantage of the erection of a new prison in such a position as to utilise the services of the long-sentenced prisoners by employing them on a model farm, and gradually extending their occupation to the cultivation of umbrageous trees in the vicinity of Accra, by which "two health factors would be gained: cultivation, which "destroys the malarial organism; and arboriculture, which "promotes a regular rainfall."

9. With regard to the Doctor's observation about the decline in the value of palm oil, it has not been greater than that experienced in regard to sugar; nevertheless, Dr. McCarthy advocates the culture of the sugar cane. Palm oil is one of the staple products of the Colony and must always, from a variety of circumstances, remain so. With regard to coffee and cocoa, the former grows luxuriantly in the hills of Aquapim, and when I visited King Quamin Cori at Akropong in March last, I urged upon him the advantages which would accrue to his country by extending the cultivation of coffee so as to have a product that would pay when palm oil did not. I also advised him to plant cocoa, and through the kindness of a friend I obtained about 100 pods of it from the Portuguese island of San Thome and sent them to him. I have also written to the Government of Trinidad for a supply of seeds for distribution in the hill country of Aburi and the neighbourhood. Cotton would pay if any trouble was taken with its cultivation, but do what one may it is difficult to move the average native out of his groove. Cognate to this point, as

GOLD COAST. indicative of the native idea of the superiority of the methods of his country to those of Europeans, I quote the following from Dr. Heron's report upon the Quittah district: "The repulsion of the natives to civilised treatment, and their want of confidence in the methods employed, makes it almost impossible to effect much good. In a large majority of instances perfect faith exists in native customs while the most profound contempt is shown for 'white man's medicine.' " If it was possible to infuse European energy and enterprise into the average native, with the vast and fertile country in which he lives, and with his independence of the unhealthiness of his climate which rarely affects him, he might produce enormous quantities of valuable merchandise and become rich by its exchange for the commodities of other countries, but, in homely English, "it is not in him" to give himself trouble. He is happy and contented after his fashion, and being so is unlikely to take advantage of the improvements exhibited by model farms. However, I quite agree with Dr. McCarthy that the prisoners should engage in industrial labour of the descriptions suited to them, and, when a prison has been built, arrangements can be made for the cultivation by them of a model farm, but I fear that even if established and thriving it would be a long while, if at all, before the natives would sacrifice their old system for those of "the white man."

10. Regarding his scheme from its economic aspect, he states that "at present the profit made by the contractors for prison rations may be fairly estimated at 100 per cent." *Per contra* he asserts that "the saving to be effected by prisoners, by preparing their own food would amount to nothing less than 1,000*l.* per annum."

11. I quite grant that if the prisoners grew and prepared their food that the expenditure which would otherwise be incurred would be saved, but as regards the profit he credits the contractors with making he has not given any data in support of his figures of 100 per cent. The matter, however, has not escaped attention. Some time ago, on the advice of Mr. Bartlett, the Auditor, I directed that contracts should be called for at the end of this month for 1887, so that the arrangements for supplying the prisoners' food should be placed on a sounder and more reliable footing than they have been on hitherto.

12. The remarks I have made on Dr. McCarthy's report will partly supply the information desired in Lord Granville's Despatch of the 12th of February 1886, paragraph 2.

13. With respect to the discipline and general arrangements of the various prisons in the Colony, undoubtedly there is a want of system and a need of check. I would have taken steps already towards effecting some improvement if I had had a suitable officer for the purpose; and, should one be available, I will have an inspection made of every prison, so as to have before me information which will enable me to decide as to what may be practicable in the way of revising existing arrangements and instituting advisable reforms,

14. The Report on the sanitary condition of Cape Coast was written by Dr. Henderson of the Army Medical Department, who is temporarily employed by this Government as Assistant Colonial Surgeon there. I have been surprised at his statement that nearly all of the provisions of the Towns, Police, and Public Health Ordinance have been suspended at Cape Coast, and I have directed that the District Commissioner should be communicated with upon the subject.

15. Dr. Henderson mentions that six new latrines are in course of erection and will undoubtedly prove of much benefit, and he recommends the adoption of measures to compel the natives to resort to them. I have very little doubt that the people will use the latrines, when they are ready, without any compulsion being required. I will direct the District Commissioner to take measures to prevent the nuisances, referred to by the Doctor, being committed on the beach.

16. The question of a general water supply for the town of Cape Coast from the neighbouring hills will have my attention when I visit the place next month. I will also see what can be done in the way of planting trees in the streets at Cape Coast, which are very bare of them, and the shelter they would afford would be a grateful relief to the glare and heat of the sun, which has always appeared to me to be more trying and oppressive at Cape Coast than elsewhere.

17. I have issued directions that the Inspector of Nuisances and his labourers shall be placed under the control of the Medical Officer in charge of the district of Cape Coast as suggested by Dr. Henderson. They are so placed here and at Elmina, and I was under the impression that this was also the case at Cape Coast.

18. The sanitary report on the station of Elmina is by Assistant Colonial Surgeon Sullivan. In alluding to the plains surrounding Elmina he states that many of them are swamps during the rainy season and produce "almost nothing in the way of" vegetation except coarse grass and mangrove, and are therefore "a great source for the production of malaria, since nature's" subsoil drainage, the roots of trees, are almost completely "absent." He adds: "These plains, especially those in the vicinity of the town, afford a fine opportunity to try the good effect of a eucalyptus plantation. As an anti-malarial and antiseptic its good effects in producing this happy result have been highly spoken of where it has been tried in the malarial districts of Italy and elsewhere, and I think that the climate of West Africa would permit of its culture with ordinary care." When I went to Lagos in 1880 I found five varieties of eucalypti seedlings in a box and planted them out, checking their tendency to grow tall and thin by cutting off the main shoots when they got beyond 20 feet in height. This process caused the trees to throw out lateral branches which thickened and strengthened them, and they were fairly stout, in good health, and under robust growth when I saw them a year ago. They were planted in a place which was swampy in rainy weather. The eucalypti rapidly absorbed

GOLD COAST. — the moisture and finally starved out all other small trees near them. I will write to Kew for seeds of eucalypti, and, on receipt distribute them to the various stations.

19. With regard to Dr. Sullivan's remark about latrines at Elmina, I decided some time ago, in consultation with the Surveyor General, that these should be undertaken as soon as he had a foreman to spare. One is to be placed in the upper part of the town over the waterway, and is to be connected with the bank by a bridge. This will be cleansed by the tide. Another is to be run into the sea at the lower part of the town, whilst others will be placed in convenient positions inland at the back of the town. Later on, as the matter is not pressing, when more urgent work has been completed, the question of conveying water from the Sweet River into Elmina can be considered, as that place is better off for water, owing to the neighbourhood of the river, than any other of the towns of the Colony on the coast.

20. In the Report from Quittah, Assistant Colonial Surgeon Heron urges the necessity for a Government Hospital. 200*l*. was placed on the estimates of 1886 for this building, but with the numerous demands on his attention and time the Surveyor General has been unable to deal with the work yet. But I will see that it is taken in hand at the earliest possible opportunity.

21. In connexion with this Despatch, I request your reference to my Despatch of the 9th of August last* dealing with the Sanitary Reports to 31st December 1885.

22. These quarterly reports of the Medical Department are not only interesting, but they are useful in bringing under the notice of the Governor matters which he might not otherwise be made aware of, and of enabling him to remove obstructions and to undertake remedial measures when shown to be necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

The Right Hon. Governor.
Edward Stanhope, M.P.
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

SANITARY REPORT on ACCRA STATION for the first Three Quarters ending 30th September 1886.

As I am going on leave of absence at the end of this month, I have the honour to submit, for his Excellency's information, my sanitary report for Accra for the first three-quarters of the year, which will therefore include any remarks I should make were I to send in a separate report for the quarter ending September 30th as desired by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

* No. 5.

At the end of the year my successor will supply the report for the fourth quarter of the year together with the vital and general statistics of the hospital. GOLD COAST.

Being, as I am, penetrated with a strong desire to see the towns on the coast improved in a sanitary point of view, I am glad to be able to say that at last sanitary projects are being put in force quickly and effectively.

I am glad to say that every practical and reasonable suggestion I have made to Governor Griffith he has adopted and has had carried out promptly.

The people are now supplied with a liberal number of latrines at the back of the town, and, to that now in use on the beach, two more will be added as quickly as possible. As soon, therefore, as the pigs, which are still at large, are stied, the insuperable difficulty which has hitherto existed of keeping the town clean will have disappeared.

(a.) *The Water Supply.*

This is another department of sanitation which Governor Griffith has given his attention to, and already five large extra tanks with an aggregate capacity of 265,000 gallons, are constructed. But beyond and above all in importance is the enormous reservoir which is being constructed for public use. This storage will hold 2,500,000 gallons, and if our next year's rain should fall in its normal abundance it will be filled; an end will then, I hope, be put to what the poorer classes have always suffered from—a want of a fair supply of good drinking water.

Unfortunately, however, the rainfall this and last year has been extremely small, which has naturally caused a good deal of uneasiness, and if such droughts continue to occur our tanks, ample though they are, will not be filled, and, as is the case now, the evil effects of scarcity will be felt.

The rainfall last year was not estimated, but up to the 20th of October of this year 21·30 inches only have fallen. To obviate, however, the danger which might accrue from the occurrence of further droughts, Governor Griffith has been for some time considering the practicability of bringing water by pipe from some of the head waters of the River Secoom. But no matter what point of that river is selected to collect water at it will entail the erection of expensive waterworks to raise the water in order to bring it to Accra, for a glance at the map of the district will show that a range of hills intervenes between the river and the town.

An alternative method might be considered, and that is to construct by local native labour a large reservoir at the foot of the hill in the vicinity of Aburi and which would be well fed by rivulets which exist in the neighbourhood. From this position a point might be selected for such a reservoir which would afford a natural fall into Accra or Christiansborg.

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I leave this suggestion where it stands for the consideration of the official whose special duty it is to report on such subjects, and I trust the Surveyor General will pardon my giving an opinion on a matter which is, of course, altogether his province to deal with and decide on.

Last July, owing to the drought in 1885, water had to be brought in buckets by a gang of women from the Secoom. This water was principally used by prisoners, houssas, police, and by a few Europeans for ablution only.

Fearing it might not be fit to drink, the Governor requested me to analyse it, and I found it of much better quality than I anticipated, that is, "usable" after filtration.

Here is the Analysis:—

Analysis of Water supplied to Officials at Accra for Drinking and Cooking Purposes.

Date of collection, Feb. 20, 1886. Source, River Secoom.

Analysis, Feb. 21, 1886 - Soil, alluvial.
Reason for analysis - To ascertain its fitness for the above purposes.

Temperature when drawn - 78° 60 Fahr.

Appearance in a 2 foot glass tube Pale yellow.

Smell when heated to 100° Perceptible.

Fahr. agitated.

Chlorine in chlorides - 1·54 grs. per gallon.

Phosphoric acid in phosphates None.

Nitrogen in nitrates - ·080 per gallon.

Ammonia, free - ·0076 per gallon.

Ammonia, albuminoid - ·0026 per gallon.

Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes at 80° Fahr. ·028 per gallon.

Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 80° Fahr. ·126 per gallon.

Hardness - Not estimated.

Total solids dried at 212° Fahr. Not estimated.

Microscopical examination of deposit. Vegetable debris, yellowish fungus vorticella, and monadina, &c.

(Signed) J. D. McCARTHY, F.C.S.

Owing to sickness, I was unable to estimate the "hardness" and "total solids," but so far as the analysis was carried it will be seen that the water was safe to drink after filtration.

Before leaving the important subject of the water supply, I may state that it has often struck me that if some deep borings

by a Norton's tube were made in the valley behind Christiansborg water might be found; and, if ascertained to be of good quality, the necessity for bringing it from Aburi or the Secoom would be obviated.

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Should borings be made, however, they ought to be at least 200 feet deep, for conclusions drawn from shallow borings would be worthless, and, besides, it would be necessary to descend beyond the region of the sandstone as the water sheet resting on that is found to be brackish. Also, striking rock at one point should not deter from trying at other spots in the valley where previous formations may possibly be found.

(b.) *The Cactus Forest.*

I am glad to be able to say that the cactus forest behind the Treasury, which has hitherto been used as a latrine by the public, is now being rapidly eradicated; over 7,000 square yards are already cleared, and in the course of a few months the growth which once covered so large an area will no longer exist, thus doing away with one of the most insanitary nuisances in the district.

Owing to the erection of latrines the air in the vicinity of the town is already perceptibly freer from its wonted odour, and I am convinced that if the people can be induced to keep their pigs, about 3,000 in number, in the sties which are about to be built for them, two decided factors will be eliminated from the etiology of disease in this neighbourhood.

The General Health.

As I have often before remarked, it is utterly impossible to obtain any reliable information respecting the death rate and still more so of the amount and nature of sickness which prevails amongst the people on this coast. Hence, with the exception of those treated in hospital (the statistics relating to these will be given in the last quarter's Report), I leave them completely out of consideration, and simply because incorrect statistics, like those of the Registrar of Births and Deaths of Lagos, are worse than useless—they are misleading.

In April, May, and June a good deal of sickness prevailed amongst the Europeans here, resulting in seven deaths, three of blackwater fever, two of remittent fever of another type, one of phthisis and one of insolation.

Seventy Europeans have resided at Accra since January, so that the death rate up to date is 100 per 1,000. Many of these Europeans, however, resided here for short periods, some for a fortnight only, others for a month or thereabouts, so that to include them in this number obviously makes the death rate appear much lower than it would be if the permanent residents

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alone were considered. Six were invalided, four temporarily, two to Europe.

Strangers on first visiting this neighbourhood cannot understand why it should be so unhealthy. "You live," said one to me, "within a stone's throw of the sea beach, the general direction of the wind is, in 18 hours out of the 24, direct from the sea and you have no swamps within miles of you. I cannot understand, therefore, where the cause of so much insalubrity can lie."

This person counted without his host, the land breeze, which prevails during the other quarter of the day, and brings us most, if not all the disease from which we suffer here. But to account for the manifestations of malaria in a community a layman *must* have a swamp, whereas in reality the paludal origin of this miasm is comparatively ignored in countries where its source and nature have been most investigated by scientists. The fact is, that it is in the uncultivated soil of valleys and low-lying grounds of tropical countries, such as the valleys behind Accra and Christiansborg that this special poison is mostly generated.

The nature and variety of the points dealt with in this report will, I trust, clearly demonstrate the immense responsibilities of an officer occupying the position which I hold in this Colony. This wide field of duties would in any comparatively civilised country, be split up into a number of separate and specific appointments, and would be dealt with by the municipal authorities, and not by the local Government. If, in my anxiety to leave no experiment untried, no possible factor towards the general well-being of the community unsuggested, I have transgressed the limits of my functions as Chief Medical Officer, I regret the error. I would infinitely rather lay myself open to the charge of "*trop de zèle*" than be haunted by the conviction that something had been left unsuggested and consequently untried which might have tended to modify the deadliness of this climate. It has been this ever present sense of the possible alleviation of our ills (I speak here of the native as well as the European community) which has led me to devote a large amount of time and thought to the development of the industrial scheme which forms the second portion of this report. I allude to the transformation of our central prison into a model farm in the immediate vicinity of headquarters. The humanitarianism of the present age has expressed itself in terms of severest censure on a prison system which, judging by results, seems to have for its sole object the brutalizing of the unhappy convict. It has demonstrated in a manner convincing to all thinking men, the manifest advantages which must accrue to any community in which the prisoner is encouraged and educated with the view of substituting for a dangerous criminal an orderly citizen.

Industrial schools and model farms have, as factors in the education of the criminal classes, produced the most remarkable results both in England, and on the continent.

The foundation of a new prison at headquarters does not present itself to my mind as an isolated fact, as a mere matter of bricks and mortar. Nay, it appears to me rather as a nucleus around which are gathered a number of vital questions; and it is this consciousness of the infinite possibilities arising out of an otherwise inconsiderable undertaking, which prompt me to take up *in extenso* the various points of importance which to my mind may naturally be considered in connexion with the establishment of this prison.

As the gaol system which obtains in this Colony at the present time is admittedly imperfect, defective, and generally unsatisfactory it is manifestly the duty of the Government before forwarding its central prison to weigh and to determine the end which it contemplates thereby to attain. The mere establishment of a building in which prison discipline will run on the same old lines as heretofore is in itself not merely an absurdity, but a sheer waste of public money.

On the other hand, place your prison in such a position and construct it in such a manner as to make it available as a model farm, and the advantages consequent therein appear to me as invaluable as they are certain. The convict model farm opens up four vistas of advancement, viz., (1) moral, (2) physical, (3) educational, and (4) economic.

(1). The conversion of the convict into an agricultural labourer will benefit him morally, because not only is he regularly employed, but that employment being in the field he does not suffer from that restlessness and depression which in our present gaol system is such a fruitful source of ill-health. He will have a regular daily task to accomplish and the mere fact of seeing, in the growth and harvesting of the crops, that he is still a useful member of the community, will tend to raise him, however brutalized he may have become.

(2.) Having established your model farm on the height behind Christiansborg, you command a large area of highly productive country, stretching to the southward as far as the Labady Road, whilst to the northward the expanse of untilled soil is practically unlimited; maize, cassava, and yam require little or no trouble to cultivate successfully, and when not occupied in sowing or planting the above the mass of convict labour could be applied to tree planting in the district immediately north of Accra, which is now practically denuded of anything larger than a shrub.

To this wholesale destruction of the trees, I attribute the irregularity and scantiness of the rainfall during the last few years. Years of irregular or scanty rainfall on this coast have been invariably marked in my experience by an increased death-rate from most diseases and the significant presence of the more malignant types of fever and dysentery. If by planting umbrageous trees in the vicinity of Accra we can restore the regularity

GOLD COAST. of the rains, we at one and the same time improve the public health and settle that vexed question, the water supply of Accra.

With regard to the cultivation of the land as a means of freeing it from its morbidic elements, I would quote an author whose fame as an hygienist is world-wide. His dictum is as follows:—
“Malaria invariably disappears before the plough.” From your model farm you therefore derive two health factors: Cultivation, which destroys the malarial organism, and arboriculture, which gives you a regular rainfall.

(3.) The model farm as a centre of experimental agriculture would be the first step towards the foundation of Government plantations. It would be the initiation of an industrial scheme of education for the whole Colony. The native of the Gold Coast is still content with a very low scale of living. His ambition is as *borne* as are his ideas. The tremendous fall in palm oil, our one staple, has shaken the commerce of the Colony to its very foundations, and what Sierra Leone is to-day the Gold Coast may be to-morrow, that is, on the verge of national bankruptcy.

Here is the whole commerce of the coast dependent on one item of produce, and that item one which has fallen in the space of two years from 35*l.* to 36*l.* per ton to 18*l.* and 19*l.*

In the contest against South America and Australian tallow, the valuable vegetable oils of the East and West Indies, and the mineral oils of the United States, Galacia, and Baku, palm oil can only have one tendency, and that a downward one. It therefore behoves the Government of this Colony to foster by every means in its power any enterprise which may have for its object the discovery or development in our commerce of “fresh fields and pastures new.”

I will enumerate a few of the more important staples, all of which grow luxuriantly in various parts of the coast: coffee, cocoa, maize, indigo, rice, cotton, ginger, sugar cane, rubber (both tree and vine), cocoa palm, and tobacco. By small plantations of these products on the farm, you would, if successful, teach the intelligent native this valuable lesson, that the wealth of the Gold Coast is to be sought and found not in its gold or its palm oil, but in the hitherto untested richness of its countless acres of ferruginous clay and alluvial deposit.

(4.) Now as regards the economic aspects of the scheme. At present the profit made by the contractors for prison rations may be fairly estimated at 100 per cent, and as the new building will hold all the long-sentence convicts in the Colony, the saving to be effected by growing and preparing their own food would amount to nothing less than 1,000*l.* per annum.

In conclusion, I would venture to point out that I am not sufficiently sanguine as to expect, nay, even to hope that each and every point in this scheme will succeed, but I believe that where so many benefits may accrue from the undertaking some at least are sure to be realised; and that at the very worst the scheme

would be an undoubted improvement from every point of view upon the system now in vogue. GOLD COAST.

(Signed) J. D. McCARTHY,
Chief Medical Officer.

Colonial Hospital, New Site, Accra,
21st October, 1886.

Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

SANITARY REPORT on CAPE COAST for the Quarter ended
30th September 1886.

THE town has been fairly healthy during the quarter ; no disease has been epidemic. There was one case of small-pox treated in the small-pox hospital.

The town is kept as clean as possible with the very limited and imperfect means available, but until much more energetic and stringent measures than those in force at present are adopted to compel the native population to be more cleanly in their habits the sanitation of the town will never be in a satisfactory state. There was an Ordinance issued some years ago (Towns, Police, and Public Health Ordinance 1878) which, if put in force, would very much improve the state of Cape Coast, but as nearly all its provisions are suspended it is now nothing better than a farce.

At present pigs, sheep, goats, fowls, &c. wander about the streets at all times. When District Commissioner Barnett was here he tried to put a stop to this, but the nuisance is now as bad as ever.

His public latrines are fairly well patronised; the number in use was far short of the requirements of the town but six new ones are now being erected and will undoubtedly prove of much benefit, more especially if measures were adopted which would compel the natives to use them; if this is not done they will at best only mitigate the evil. The bush round the town and the sea shore are now little better than a latrine, and however many latrines may be erected numbers of natives will still use those places if permitted.

The water used by the natives is of very bad quality and is the cause of much disease. There is no source of water supply but wells and tanks, and it would be a great boon if a plentiful and constant supply of good water could be brought into the town; this would easily be done from the Sweet River; a large reservoir could, at a small cost, be constructed at Abroabanka, about six miles from Cape Coast, and the water brought into the town by pipes, passing through filter beds on the way. The cost of the whole work would not be much and would well repay the Government; a constant supply of good water would be obtained and in addition to its other advantages would be of incalculable benefit by providing a means of flushing the drains in the town.

GOLD COAST. The new main drain is a step in the right direction, but if it could be flushed during the dry season its value would be more than trebled.

It would add greatly to the appearance of the town if trees were planted along the sides of the principal streets; they would give a pleasant shade and help to abate the intolerable glare which is no doubt the cause of much eye disease. To carry out this suggestion would be no expense, as the whole work could be done by prisoners.

Some months ago the Assistant Colonial Surgeon at Cape Coast was appointed to act in future as Health Officer of the district; to enable him to properly carry out the duties I would suggest that the Conservancy Establishment should be placed entirely under his orders; at present he has no control or authority of any kind over the men and has to send his instructions and suggestions through the District Commissioner. This must always be a source of delay and altogether unsatisfactory to everyone.

(Signed) W. R. HENDERSON, M.D.,
Surgeon, M.S.,

Cape Coast, Acting Assistant Colonial Surgeon.
25th October 1886.

Enclosure 3 in No. 16.

SANITARY REPORT on the STATION of ELMINA for the Quarter ending 30th of September 1886.

THE geological formation of the district surrounding Elmina appears to consist of sandstone hills, which are metamorphic in origin, rising abruptly from alluvial plains, many of which are swamps during the rainy season.

These swamps are productive of almost nothing in the way of vegetation except coarse grass and mangrove, and are therefore a great source for the production of malaria, since nature's subsoil drainage, the roots of trees, are almost completely absent.

These plains, especially those in the vicinity of the town, afford a fine opportunity to try the good effect of a eucalyptus plantation. As an anti-malarial and antiseptic its good effects in producing this happy result have been highly spoken of where it has been tried in the malarial districts of Italy and elsewhere; and I think that the climate of West Africa would permit of its culture with ordinary care.

Many of the diseases from which the native population suffer are complicated by malaria. On this point I have had ample opportunity of satisfying myself and observing the satisfactory result of combining quinio or arsenic with the ordinary treatment, and the majority of these cases I believe came from what may be called the most malarial parts of the town.

The principal vegetable food supply which I have observed are Okro (*Abelmoschum Esculentis*), garden eggs (*Solanum ovigerum*)

tomatoes (*Lycopersicum esculentum*), yams (*Dioscoia*, two species). GOLD COAST.
maize (*Zea Mays*). The natives depend solely on these, with fish, —
pigs or fowl for their diet.

During this quarter dysentery was very prevalent amongst the natives, and was in my opinion kept up by the fact that the dysenteric stools are seldom buried by the natives, but left exposed to the action of the air and sun, and thus become reduced to a state of pulverization, and the germs are then blown about by the wind and transmitted to fresh subjects, either through the medium of the water, or food, on which they may rest, or perhaps inhaled by the lungs.

With regard to the public water supply and latrines I can only recommend that the schemes I proposed in my sanitary report of 31st December 1885 be carried out.

There has been a marked increase in the attendance of both the in and outpatients at the Colonial Hospital during the quarter.

Although it was publicly announced through Chief Andoh that vaccination would take place each day at the Colonial Hospital, but few availed themselves; this may be attributed in a great measure to the fact of its being announced through the Chief, owing to some political ill feeling towards him.

The health of European officers was satisfactory through the quarter.

A virulent type of ophthalmia was rife for some time, and may be accounted for by the irritant nature of the dust which is constantly being blown about.

The falaria medinensis is a cause of much suffering to the native, and in many instances is the starting point of permanent destruction to the muscles and deformity to the limbs; this is invariably the case when the patient is left to the tender mercies of the native doctors.

(Signed) F. W. SULLIVAN,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

Enclosure 4 in No. 16.

Dr. HERON to CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

SIR,

Quittah Fort, October 6, 1886.

I HAVE the honour herewith to submit the following general Sanitary Report of this district for the quarter ended 30th September 1886.

During this period a total of four hundred and sixty-one (461) patients, new cases, have been treated, the total number of attendances being one thousand four hundred and forty-five (1,445).

Of these six hundred and three were native Government employes; which gives, roughly, an average of 4 per cent. of illness among this class for the quarter, or approximately a sick rate of one hundred and sixty (160) per thousand (1,000) for the year. Although an increase on previous returns is thus shown,

GOLD COAST. the per-centage of attendance is exceedingly low considering the population of the neighbourhood and the known unhealthiness of the district. The repulsion of the natives to civilised treatment, and their want of confidence in the methods employed, makes it almost impossible to effect much good, or to take any interest in professional work.

In a large majority of cases perfect faith exists in native customs while the most profound contempt is shown for "white man's medicine." About four months ago a native practitioner sued a leper before the District Commissioner here for five pounds (5*l.*) due for medical attendance, the defendant being subsequently treated as a pauper at the dispensary.

In my opinion the only conceivable method by which the surgeon's work here may be made more profitable to the patients and less irksome to himself is by the establishment of an hospital in or near the town.

There, with patients under immediate supervision and control, it is possible to remedy diseases otherwise incurable.

Uncivilised out-door patients complicate matters by bringing medicine into disrepute and disheartening honest professional men.

By this class (of patient), partly from ignorance, partly from disbelief in their efficacy, drugs dispensed are seldom taken, and if taken rarely according to directions as regards time and dose.

Bandages carefully applied at the surgery will be loosened at home or completely removed until the next visit.

Lotions, liniments and ointments are mis-used in every manner, and such important modes of treatment as those by enemata, suppositories, &c. are out of the question with the class of dispensary patients here.

Under these circumstances satisfactory results are almost precluded, and surgical operations become quite impracticable.

The so-called dispensary here is well known as a miniature closet partitioned off of corner of the Court House.

The average occupation of this cavity is three persons, surgeon, dispenser, and patient, both the dresser and the Houssa interpreter having to remain in the open door-way.

By careful measurement and computation I am enabled to state that the actual available space of this dispensing cupboard is almost exactly five-sixths of that of the latrine.

Patients collect and wait for two or three hours in the body of the Court House, where the washing and dressing has to be more or less publicly performed, as there is no room elsewhere.

This practice is not conducive to the dignity of the profession; and considering the majority of these cases are gangrenous ulcers and other offensive sores, it militates somewhat against the comfort of the Government clerks.

Four weeks ago the necessity arose of treating a case of fractured thigh-bone in an old man, of course at his own home, where he lay on a bare mat upon the ground.

The difficulties of setting and putting up the limb in such a position may be more easily imagined than described. It was

found, however, that his friends were in the habit of altering the bandages; and three weeks after the accident an unexpected visit revealed the splints and padding completely removed. GOLD COAST.

On the 16th of September Mr. A. D. Muffle ætatis 19 years, a volunteer out door officer, had both bones of his leg badly shattered by the Government surf boat, the limb being almost torn off.

I amputated above the injury, everything resulted satisfactorily and the patient was placed in a ground room below the fort as the only place available.

Rapid progress was being made towards recovery, when on the ninth morning between 3 and 5 a.m. a heavy shower of rain fell, sensibly lowering the thermometer.

Tetanus, brought on by the suddenly reduced atmospheric temperature, set in within six hours, and death ensued early the following day.

This man's decease is to be attributed solely to exposure in the damp, unventilated cell during and after the rain.

Certified copies of the verdict at the inquest, and of my cross-examination by the foreman of the jury (F. W. Daacke, Esq.) are enclosed.

The sanitary condition of the town is as good as can be expected, all things considered.

Though there is no water which can be called pure available for native use, the supply from small wells sunk in the sand is ample.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. WOODBURN HERON,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

The Chief Medical Officer, Accra.

EVIDENCE.

Evidence at Inquest of the late Mr. A. D. Muffle.

Quittah, September 26, 1886.

ALEXANDER WOODBURN HERON re-called.

(Foreman.) Do you consider the place the patient was kept in a fit one?

Certainly not, but it was the only place available.

(Foreman.) Do you think the patient would have had a better chance of recovering in a proper hospital?

(Witness.) Certainly; there would have been, in that case, every hope of his recovery.

(Signed) A. WOODBURN HERON.

Certified true copy.

(Signed) J. JACKSON,
Deputy Registrar.

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R

GOLD COAST.

Verdict at Inquest of the late Mr. A. D. Muffle.

Quittah, September 26, 1886.

The said jurors find that the death of the said A. D. Muffle was caused on or about the 26th day of September 1886 by tetanus, the result of injuries accidentally received by the upsetting of the surf boat on the 11th instant.

The jury regret that there is no hospital at this place for the reception of patients, and think that had there been one deceased might have recovered.

And so say the jurors upon their oath aforesaid.

Witness our hands,

(Signed)	F. W. DAACKE, Foreman.	
	GOTT. ZURLINDEN,	} Jurors.
	THOS. D. WILLIAMS,	
	F. OLYMPIA,	
	WM. S. JOHNSON,	
	CHR. JACOBSON,	
	J. C. LOKKO,	

CHARLES A. FRASER, Coroner.

Certified true copy.

(Signed) JOHN JACKSON,
Deputy Registrar.

Enclosure 5 in No. 16.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

(No. 1.)

Ussher Fort, Accra, October 1, 1886.

NOTICE is hereby given, that 12 commodious latrines with screens have been erected in convenient positions, and an additional latrine on the beach at James Town, all within the town of Accra. They have been built by the Government with a view to improve the sanitary condition of the town, and the health and comfort of the inhabitants in general. Six latrines are painted black for the use of males, and six white for females; but the one on James Town beach, although white, is for males; an additional latrine for females will shortly be erected on the beach to the eastward of James Fort. It is expected that the inhabitants of Accra will use these latrines, instead of committing nuisances in the bush and on the beach as was formerly the custom.

By command,
ROUSE DOUGLAS DOUGLAS, Captain,
District Commissioner.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.

No. 17.

Governor W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the Right
Hon. Sir H. T. HOLLAND, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

SIR,
Government House, Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, March 23, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, the following reports from the Commissioners of the districts mentioned below.

Quittah District.

1. For November and December 1886, and for January and February 1887. In the report for November, objection is taken to the arrangements intended by the Surveyor General in regard to the cleaning of the latrines. The objection has been admitted and remedied, and the necessary utensils have been taken in hand for manufacture and supply by the Public Works Department. In the report for December it is stated that the market in the town of Quittah could be improved by an expenditure of four pounds, which was authorised. And as regards the allowance of 150*l.* to the Awoonah Chiefs, which they desired to receive, the Commissioner has been authorised to pay it to them. The report for January states that six latrines had been completed and would be in working order when the pans arrived. The February report does not call for any remark.

Volta River District.

2. The report for November is satisfactory but does not call for any particular notice, and this remark will apply also to that for December.

Addah District.

3. The reports for November, December, January, and February, although meagre as usual, are satisfactory. The application of the "Towns Police and Health Ordinance" appears to have done good in the district.

Pram Pram District.

4. The report for November speaks well of the condition of the roads. The unwillingness of the people to do anything in the

GOLD COAST. — shape of public labour for their own advantage seems to have provoked the Native Commissioner, who, however, allowed his judgment to control his feelings in the matter to which he refers. With regard to his desire to receive authority to compel the people to accept vaccination, I have not taken any action, as the question is one which will need consideration and legislation, which I have not the time to give, and to enter upon, before my departure. The report for January is satisfactory. In that for February allusion is made to a case of suicide, which was dealt with by the Commissioner of the Volta. As regards the want felt for water, I intend asking the Legislative Council to vote a sum, say 1,000*l.*, for the erection of a tank at Pram Pram to hold 100,000 gallons. The report for February is satisfactory.

Winnebah District.

5. The report for November is characteristic of the late Commissioner. The "Towns Police and Health Ordinance" has since the report was written been applied to the towns of Mumford and Appam. Owing to the changes of Commissioners at Winnebah in December and January no reports have been sent in for December 1886, nor for January and February 1887.

Salt Pond District.

6. I transmit a copy of a letter from the Commissioner, in which he gives an interesting report of a journey he made to portions of his district in connexion with some of its roads. I have given instructions upon his recommendation to supply tools to those Chiefs who are willing to clean their roads on the terms allowed by the Government. The report for November contains a copy of a letter with an account of a riot which occurred at Abowinim on the 16th of that month. The reports for December 1886 and for January 1887 do not present any points of interest.

Cape Coast District.

7. In the report for November the Commissioner makes a recommendation, with regard to the flags used by companies, that all flags at present in their possession should be abolished, and a single red ensign, given by the Government, substituted. The question is a vexed one, and is of extensive character. I have had it under consideration, but I am not prepared to deal with it at present. In the report for December the Commissioner suggests that the services of some of the prisoners in the gaol at Cape Coast who have been brought up to various trades might be utilized to better advantage, than with the labour they are engaged upon, if they were employed in working at their trades. But with the few tradesmen in gaol, and looking to their occupations, I do not

see on a balance of considerations that there would be a gain by adopting the recommendation of the Commissioner for Cape Coast. His suggestion as to buckets being on hand in case of fire is a practical one, which will be attended to. GOLD COAST.

Elmina District.

8. The report for November does not call for observation.

Secondee District.

9. The reports for November and December 1886, and for January and February 1887, are drawn up with the care and attention which always mark Mr. Vroom's work. They are generally interesting, but do not require any special remarks.

Dixcove District.

10. The report for November is satisfactory. In that for December the Commissioner refers to the insanitary condition of the "Piah," a large area in the town where water stagnates, and states that he will be glad to see something done towards its improvement. But as I understand the filling up or purification of the locality would be an extensive undertaking, and would require to be looked after by a foreman of works, I have written for further information upon the subject. The reports for January and February 1887 do not call for any observations.

Azim District.

11. The reports for November and December 1886 and January 1887 do not possess any features of interest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.

Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

&c.

&c.

&c.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Quittah, to COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

SIR,

Quittah Fort, December 1, 1886.

I HAVE the honour of reporting to you on this district for the month of November for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

2. The lagoon still keeps its high level, and if there is any diminution in the water it is not appreciable. This is in spite of a very dry month.

GOLD COAST.

3. With regard to the latrines to be constructed here, I and the Medical Officer here are both of opinion that the system on which they are to be worked is wrong. It is proposed to dig large holes and cover them over with the sheds. There are a number of objections to this.

1st. That this town stands on a mere spit of sand, and the holes would require shoring up with timber; this would be expensive.

2nd. I do not believe a hole of sufficient depth can be dug without coming to water; 8 feet is the extreme limit of water.

3rd. This would necessitate the sheds being constantly moved, and that would cost a good deal of money, in addition to the cost of shoring up the new holes.

4th. The Medical Officer considers that under any conditions the system is not good.

5th. I would recommend that the sheds be provided with pans, which could be emptied in the sea, there being a strong current leading away from the town. It would require at least 60 pans to do this, and in case there were not sufficient prisoners it would require hired labour to work the system.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. FRASER,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of QUITTAH to the COLONAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Quittah Fort, January 2, 1887.

I HAVE the honour of reporting to you on the state of this district for the month of December 1886 for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

2. The lagoon does not seem to have lost water or gained any during the month.

3. Six latrines having been ordered to be built at this place, four have been completed during the month and two are yet incomplete.

4. One part of the market place here is considerably lower than the other half, and in the event of a higher lagoon would be subject to inundation. I find that the Chiefs would be willing to raise the ground there for a sum of 4*l.* to give the people rum with. This I would recommend.

5. I have received messages from the King of Awoonah and the Chiefs asking that they may be allowed to draw their annual stipend, which they state is now due. I informed them that I would forward their application for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

6. The state of the district is undisturbed, but some days ago at Tegbey, where the people have a land palaver, I was informed

that the people were going to fight. I at once went out there with some Houssas. I did not find any signs of disorder, but ordered the headmen of both parties into Quittah. When they arrived I explained that they would be prevented from fighting each other, even by force, if necessary. I do not consider that there is now any danger of a serious breach of the peace at Tegbey.

GOLD COAST.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. FRASER,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Quittah, to the COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

SIR,

Quittah Fort, January 31, 1887.

1. I HAVE the honour of reporting on this district for the month of January for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

2. The district has been quiet and undisturbed during the month, but I regret to say that the Chiefs of Agbosomé do not seem to agree amongst themselves any better. I wrote to the King and offered to meet him and the Chiefs, but he seems rather to evade the subject. This, I think, arises from his knowing how hostile some of the Chiefs are to him.

3. The lagoon still keeps its level.

4. Six latrines have been completed in the town, and when pans arrive will be in working order.

5. A new road or lane leading from the beach side of the town towards the lagoon side, through the premises of Chief Amargashie, is nearly complete, the houses having been removed, and there is now only some levelling and clearing away of débris to be done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. FRASER,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Quittah, to the COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

SIR,

Quittah Fort, March 2, 1887.

I HAVE the honour of reporting on this district for the month of February 1887 for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

2. The month has been exceedingly dry, but the sinking in the level of the lagoon is almost imperceptible.

GOLD COAST.

3. The new road through Chief Amargashie's premises was completed early in the month.

4. The district has been quiet and undisturbed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. FRASER,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Volta River District, to the
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

*Report on the Volta River District for the Month of November
1886.*

SIR,

Akuse, River Volta, February 19, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to make the following report on this district for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

2. During the first part of the month I was absent on special duty, arriving at Akuse on the afternoon of the 12th November, and leaving again for Accra on the morning of the 25th.

Rivers.

3. The Volta, the principal river in this district, which during the early part of October had overflowed its banks, has fallen very considerably, and in consequence the smaller tributary streams, such as the Okwaye, are beginning to dry up in the shallower parts.

Roads.

4. The roads in this district, with the exception of those from the top of the Assisesso hill to Aburi and the mountain road cleaned by the Government, were in very fair condition. Even the road leading to Aquamoo was clean. There was very little water on them, and the only fault I had to find with those in Croboe was that in a few places the branches of trees overhead had not been cut quite high enough to permit the hammock to pass without danger of being torn. This, however, was remedied on my mentioning it to the kings in charge of the road.

Towns.

5. On my return to Akuse I found the town not quite as clean as usual, most likely owing to my absence. Kpong was especially dirty, Odumase having natural advantages in the nature of its soil, as also Srah and Assisesso, were clean. Now that the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance has been applied to Kpong and Akuse they will no doubt be kept cleaner than formerly.

*Lakes and Lagoons.*GOLD COAST
—

6. The lagoon between Akuse and Amedica was very full, owing to the overflow of the river Volta last month. The same applies to the other lagoons all along the banks of the Volta.

Native Courts.

7. Owing to the short time at my disposal I did not sit in any of the native courts. From inquiries I have made, though, there do not seem to have been many cases settled, and these only of a minor order, referring chiefly to native law and the breaking of oaths.

Sanitation.

8. The sanitary condition of Kpong and Akuse is far from satisfactory. At the former place, owing to the exceptionally high state of the river last month, a lagoon was formed in the centre of the town where the ground is low. This as it dries up leaves a most unhealthy mixture of slime, decayed vegetable matter, and refuse of all kinds, which throws off a large quantity of miasmal vapour. The same remark applies to Akuse, though in a lesser degree. The large lagoon between Akuse and Amedica, on the banks of which most of the merchants have their factories, does not dry up so rapidly, and consequently does not affect the atmosphere much more than usual.

Crime.

9. During this month there were no serious cases of crime, the criminal cases being mostly composed of breaches of the Spirit License Amendment Ordinance, No. 4 of 1880, and the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, No. 4 of 1878, with one or two cases of common assaults.

10. On the whole the district has been quiet, and taking the depression in the price of native products into consideration trade has been fairly good.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. RIBY WILLIAMS,
District Commissioner, Volta District.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Volta River District, to the
COLONIAL SECRETARY.*Report on the Volta River District for the Month of December
1886.*

SIR, Akuse, River Volta, February 19, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to make the following report for the month of December 1886 on the Volta River District for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

Rivers.

1. The river Volta has now dropped to its usual condition at the end of December, and the shallows about Assuchari, Doffoh, Vlo, Battor, &c. are beginning to interfere with the navigation of the river, and only the lighter draught launches can now come right up to the bank at Amedica. The Okwaye, except in its deepest parts, which are practically holes in the bed of this stream, is dried up, and the water generally is being affected by the Harmattan.

Roads.

2. The roads along the Aquapim range are still in an unsatisfactory condition, but I have seen the Chiefs at the different villages and they have promised to have them cleaned. In Croboe they are in their usual good condition.

Towns and Villages.

3. There is great improvement to be noticed this month in the condition of the towns and villages, especially in Kpong and Akuse. They are better swept, and the bush has in most places been cleared from the open spaces.

Lakes and Lagoons.

4. The permanent lagoons have now dried up to their normal state. Those which were only caused by the high state of the Volta in October last are practically dry. A large quantity of fish from the Volta were left in the Akuse lagoon when the river went down, and the people are consequently engaged in catching and drying them for sale to the people from the bush.

Native Courts.

5. No cases of any note have been heard in the native courts, and the Kings empowered to hold courts complain that the natives prefer going to the District Commissioner's court. I informed these Chiefs, &c. that if they did not charge such high fees people would come to their courts.

Sanitation.

GOLD COAST.

6. The sanitary condition of the larger towns has been greatly improved this month, owing partly to natural causes (the drying of the lagoons, &c., for instance, and partly to the greater cleanliness to be observed, owing to the enforcement of the provisions of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance.

There has been very little sickness this month either among the natives or the few Europeans.

Crime and Matters of General Interest.

7. During the month information was given of a case of human sacrifice having taken place some six or eight months since, and steps were immediately taken to arrest the culprits. A large force of Houssas was sent by his Excellency's instructions to Lartey, the scene of the alleged sacrifice. One of the Chiefs, Ababio of Adukroom, was ordered to proceed to Accra to answer a charge brought against him by myself of treating me in a disrespectful way when in his village. Some police sent there to serve a warrant were also assaulted by some of the natives of that village. An inquest was held at Kpong on the 19th December on a man named Kasamayeden, who shot himself. Dr. Cole, the newly appointed Assistant Colonial Surgeon, visited the district for the first time and expressed himself pleased at the general sanitary condition of the district. While taking Dr. Cole back to Addah the Government launch lost a propeller and part of the shaft.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. RIBY WILLIAMS,
District Commissioner, Volta District.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Addah to the COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

District Report, November 1886.

District Commissioner's Office, Addah,
December 1, 1886.

SIR,

As usual I have to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, that the state of the district is peace and quietness.

Trade is dull.

GOLD COAST. The river Volta is now very low, and the steam launches could not go as far as usual.

The sanitary condition is much improved.

The roads and streets are in the same condition as I reported last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. S. PARKER,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Addah to the COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

District Commissioner's Office, Addah,
January 5, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, that the total amount of revenue collected within the district during the year ended 31st December 1886 come to 10,153*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, and disbursement out of the revenue during the year 1,862*l.* 4*s.*

The total imports and total exports during the year were as follows :—

				£	s.	d.
Imports	-	-	-	45,380	2	7
Exports	-	-	-	66,012	5	0

Trade.

2. The trade has been very bad during the past month, on account of the low price offered for produce.

Roads.

3 The roads of the district are in the same condition.

Sanitary Condition.

4. The sanitary condition of the town is much improved.

State of the District.

5. The state of the district is peace and quietness.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. SWANZY PARKER,
The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, District Commissioner.
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Addah, to the COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

GOLD COAST.

District Commissioner's Office, Addah,

SIR,

January 31, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, that the revenue collected during this month come to 557*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, and disbursement 119*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* The total imports 2,098*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, and total exports 4,964*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*

Trade.

The trade has been very bad during the month.

Roads.

The roads of the district are in a better condition.

Sanitary Condition.

The sanitary condition of the town is very much improved.

State of the District.

The state of the district is peace and quietness.

River Volta.

The river Volta is still very low.

The Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance have been done great deal good within the district; and satisfaction to both the Europeans and the natives.

The Harmattan season has been very strong during this month.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. S. PARKER,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Addah, to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

District Commissioner's Office, Addah,

SIR,

March 2, 1887

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, that the revenue collected for the past month come to 534*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, and disbursement 130*l.* 13*s.* The total imports 3,051*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, and total exports 4,521*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

GOLD COAST.

Trade.

The trade has been very dull, no progressive.

Roads.

The roads of the district are in better condition.

Sanitary Condition.

The sanitary condition of the town is very much improved.

State of the District.

The state of the district is peace and quietness.

River Volta.

The river Volta is still very low.

The Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance has been done great deal good within the district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. S. PARKER,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Pram Pram, to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Monthly Report, Pram Pram District, November 1886.

SIR,

Pram Pram, December 4, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that peace and quietness prevail in my district during the past month.

The roads on the sea coast line are in splendid condition ; clean and repaired.

Mr. Jones, the Assistant Colonial Surveyor, was here on 8th November, and I consulted him as to the best mode of effecting the repairs of the gully-hole in the centre of the upper town of Pram Pram, and for remedying the defects of the main road of the place. As I believe that officer has embodied it in his report of his inspection of this town it would not be of much use my dwelling upon that subject.

Water supply, which have formed part of my communication in October, I am glad to be able to report that during the month we have been blessed with four good showers of rain, and I

GOLD COAST.
—

collected and saved a little water for drinking purposes. Although the town people have promised the cleaning of the pond or reservoir between this and Poni on the Accra Road, and have actually taken the surface mud on the 2nd and 5th November, but when they were urged by me upon the suggestion of Mr. Jones to dig it to a depth of 5 feet, to collect sufficient water for their use, they refused compliance. The Chief has no influence whatever over his people, consequently he is unable to assist me in this matter; I would have used force on them to complete the digging, but I may not be justified in so doing, especially as the water are solely for the good and benefit of the people and the town.

Dr. Cole, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, on the 17th November visited this place and give much relief to the sick, whom he gave medicines and help in the matter of sanitation.

The people detest inoculation, and yet they are very filthy in their dwellings; should the doctor call to vaccinate I must ask his Excellency's permission to enforce them.

Trade is dull, this cause a great decrease in the revenue; but the general belief is that the oil season is getting over; the traders do more in palm kernels now than it was in previous months.

The exports are comparatively small; this is caused by the firm of Messrs. F. and A. Swanzy reserving all their produce for their chartered steamer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. B. YORKE,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Pram Pram to the ACTING
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Monthly Report, Pram Pram District, December 1886.

SIR,

Pram Pram, January 3, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that my district has been quiet during the past month.

Christmas Day was unusually quiet here; on the night of 24th December (Christmas Eve) the school boys paraded the town rejoicing, and singing around, and at midnight a band of the Christian community of this place sang praises around and visited each other; and at Christmas they were so exhausted that nothing more was heard after 12 o'clock noon, there being but few civilized people in the whole town. No quarrel or fight reported; nor any serious offence having been brought to my notice.

Trade remain dull during the month, the merchants have to raise the buying price of produce.

GOLD COAST

The revenue for the month being 25*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, the expenditure for same period 60*l.* 1*s.*; for the same time in the year 1885 the revenue was, all told, 224*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, showing an increase of 28*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure 71*l.* 15*s.*, decrease in expenditure being 11*l.* 14*s.*

The export was large, and show an heavy increase, as the S.S. "Spider" was here and take all produce reserved for her by the firm of F. and A. Swanzy.

The town of Pram Pram is clean just now.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. B. YORKE,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Pram Pram to the ACTING
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Monthly Report, Pram Pram District, January 1887.

SIR,

Pram Pram, February 4, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that peace and tranquillity prevailed in this district during the past month.

Trade.

2. Trade is bad. The spirit dealers throw the blame upon the firm of F. and A. Swanzy for selling their rum cheaper than they could afford to do without serious loss, consequently trade spoiled. My opinion is that the people do not strive to encourage trade into the town; no efforts are put forth by any of the native traders to stimulate the import or export; this being left solely to the hands of the three factories of Swanzy, B. M. Factory, and Ocansey.

Palm oil and palm kernels are coming to the country, but not abundantly as heretofore; it is believed here that the trade will revive as soon as the fishermen began to catch fish in good quantity. This always invites oilers and other produce vendors to this town, when the consumption of spirits also increases.

Political.

3. On the 22nd January I received a verbal message from King Awah, of Shai, reporting a suicide committed by an Akim man in the town of Shai, some three or four days before his cane bearer got here. I despatched the messengers back to say that the body should be buried. The town of Shai though much

nearer to Pram Pram yet is in the Volta River District, and as such I despatched two constables to the place to collect informations touching the committal of the alleged suicide. These constables met Mr. C. R. Williams, Commissioner of Volta River District, holding inquest on the view of the body there; the constables returned on the 25th January with a letter from District Commissioner Williams, dated same day, pointing out that Shai is in his district. I venture to suppose that ere this all particulars leading to the death of the Akim man at Shai must have been in your possession.

GOLD COAST.

Customs Shed.

4. The repairs of this shed, approved by his Excellency, has thoroughly been effected. I employed two masons and two labourers for the purpose, who worked four days (*i.e.*, from 24th to 27th January inclusive), and the expenditure did not exceed the amount approved; the shed at present gives better appearance than ever it was; clean and neat; the only defects existing is the thatched roof, which I may deal with at some future report. It would have been completed if roofed with iron.

5. Dr. Cole, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Addah, visited this district, and arrived here on the night of 25th January, and has given medicines to the poor sick people who waited upon him, and attended the sick constables and officials.

The doctor left for Addah on the morning of the 29th January.

Water.

6. The supply of this beverage is getting scarce and strikingly alarming in this town and its vicinity. At Poni the town is deserted by nearly one half of its population to their villages in the interior, where water can be had for all purposes just now. I trust that some steps will soon be taken by the Government to rescue this district from being deserted for want of water.

7. The revenue for the month of January, all told, is 197*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, of this amount the customs yield 146*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Specific duty on spirits -	106	7	6			
„ „ tobacco -	40	5	0			
„ „ <i>ad valorem</i> -	0	0	10			
	<hr/>			146	13	4
Duty on spirit licenses -				47	0	0
Fines and fees of court -				0	15	6
Postage stamps sold -				2	4	2
Miscellaneous receipts -				0	7	3
	<hr/>					
Total receipt, January 1887 -				£197	0	3

GOLD COAST.

	£	s.	d.
The expenditure for same period being	55	13	0
Remittance to the Treasury, Accra	- 123	0	0
Balance in my custody at end of month	18	7	3
	<hr/>		
	£197	0	3
	<hr/>		

I may add that the rent for the District Commissioner's quarter is not drawn for the month of January.

8. For the same time in the year 1886 the revenue was, all told, 382*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, which was made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Customs duty, specific	- - - 289	11	6
„ „ <i>ad valorem</i>	- - - 10	5	7
	<hr/>		
	£299	17	1
	<hr/>		

	£	s.	d.
Decrease in customs revenue	- - 153	3	9
Decrease on duty on spirit licenses	- 42	0	0

This is accounted for in the second paragraph of this report under the head of Trade.

Imports.

9. Nothing imported during the past month 1887, except a paltry *ad valorem* value 1*l.*, whereas in 1886 the importation were specific 264*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* and *ad valorem* 256*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* It is hoped that this will be made up in the month of February.

Export.

10. The export was pretty fair on the whole; during the month 13,382 gallons palm oil, and 22 $\frac{8}{10}$ tons palm kernels, were exported, whilst in 1886 the only export was 15,606 gallons palm oil, the difference being 2,224 gallons in palm oil, but the value of the export in 1886 apparently is put down in large figure, which make the decreases as shown in my Financial Report.

11. The town is in the whole clean and the sanitary condition pretty fair.

12. The main road leading to the wharf from Upper Town and the gully-hole in the town need repairs; and this work require to be looked after by scientific men of the Public Works Department, when one can be spared for the purpose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. B. YORKE,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Pram Pram, to the ACTING
COLONIAL SECRETARY.GOLD COAST.

Monthly Report, Pram Pram District, February 1887.

SIR,

Pram Pram, March 4, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that peace and quietness prevailed in this district during the past month.

Trade.

2. Trade continues dull. Palm oil and palm kernels are stagnantly coming to the country.

3. The revenue for the month of February show comparatively slight improvement, whilst in January the receipt from all sources was 197*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*; that for the month of February amount to 231*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* (an increase of 34*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*). The Customs yielded 196*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

The District Record show :—

Balance, end of January 1887	-	£	s.	d.	
		18	7	3	
		£	s.	d.	
Specific duty on spirits,					
&c. -	-	195	10	0	
<i>Ad valorem</i> duty	-	0	16	4	
					196 6 4
Duty on spirit licenses -		30	10	0	
Fines and fees of court		1	3	6	
Postage stamps sold -		1	15	0	
Miscellaneous receipt -		1	9	0	
					34 17 6
					249 11 1
		£	s.	d.	
4. The expenditure for same period being		51	12	2	
Remittance to the Treasury, Accra -		196	1	0	
Balance in my custody at end of					
month -	-	1	17	11	
					249 11 1

5. Rent for District Commissioner's quarter is not drawn for January and February.

GOLD COAST. 6. For the same time in the year 1886 the revenue, all told, was 227*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, which was made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs, specific duty -	205	17	6			
<i>Ad valorem</i> duty -	0	3	10			
	<hr/>			206	1	4
Duty on spirit licenses -	18	0	0			
Fines and fees of court -	2	7	0			
Postage stamps sold -	0	3	1			
Miscellaneous receipt -	0	16	0			
	<hr/>			21	6	1
				<hr/>		
				227	7	5
				<hr/>		

Imports

7. The total importation in February 1887, 417*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* For same period in 1886 it was only 4*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* The consumption value 150*l.* 5*s.* For same period in 1886, 183*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

Exports.

8. The exports during the month, consisting of 9,948 gallons palm oil, and 20 tons palm kernels, valued at 617*l.* 8*s.* For the same period last year palm oil 10,998 gallons, valued at 815*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, thus the decrease as shown in my financial report.

9. The town is, on the whole, clean, and its sanitary condition good.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. B. YORKE,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Winnebah, to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Report on the District of Winnebah for the Month of November 1886.

SIR, Winnebah, November 30, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to send, as under, my report for the above district for the month of November.

Roads.

I have nothing to add on this subject to that which I reported for the month of October last; the roads, so far as I am aware, remain in about the same condition.

*Rivers.*GOLD COAST.

I can only repeat that which I reported in my report for the month of October last on this subject. I know of no new rivers, and I am unaware of any change in the two reported on in October last.

Towns.

Not having travelled to any new part of my district I am unable to give any further report under this heading beyond that given in my report for October last.

Villages.

On this subject I am unable to give any further information to that which I gave in my report for October 1886.

Lakes.

As stated in my report for October last, I am not acquainted with any.

Lagoons.

This subject was fully dealt with in my report for October last, and to that information I have nothing to add.

Native Courts.

I am unable to give any further information on this subject to that which I gave in my report for last month, October.

Sanitation.

With regard to the town of Winnebah, I have nothing further to add; but as regards Appam and Mumford, there is considerable room for improvement, and this, I trust, will be effected when the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance is made applicable to these two places, for at present my hands are tied, the inhabitants knowing that the above mentioned Ordinance does not apply to these two places, hence their little regard for my orders.

Crime.

It would appear to be on the decrease as compared with November 1885, as in that month 29 cases were brought before the District Commissioner for that year, mostly for larceny, few, very few, cases under the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, while in this month just ended, 46 cases have been brought before me, seven only being for larceny, &c., the remainder, charges under the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, Spirit

GOLD COAST. License Ordinance, and Arms and Ammunition License Ordinance. I am of opinion that the strict application of the three Ordinances last named, and when a charge is brought, fully explaining to the defendant the contents of the paragraph under which he is charged, has had a wholesome effect, as I found when I first took my seat in this court that the inhabitants of this town appeared to be ignorant of the offence they committed, their usual answer being, when charged "Oh! we have not been ordered to do this before (ordering them to keep their premises clean, &c.)."

Customs.

I allow no "customs" to be indulged in without a written authority signed by me, limiting them to certain hours, and only under certain conditions (that is, those customs in which a drum is used, few, none I may say, being held without), and I have found that not only do those keeping the "custom" feel securer from being interfered with, but I consider that many a disturbance is prevented from occurring by exercising the above mode of leave for holding "custom." I may here state that, so far as I can ascertain, "Fetish customs" would appear to be on the decrease, as I have, since my appointment as District Commissioner to this district, only received one application for such custom. "Fetish custom" is usually accompanied with drum beating, and before granting a pass for "custom" I always acquaint myself with the quarter of the town in which it is to be held, the nature of the "custom," and if limited to the family of the applicant, &c. All this, I consider, keeps a check on those who are mischief makers, and they think twice before indulging in anything that may bring them to court.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **ARTHUR A. H. INGLEFIELD,**
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Salt Pond to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

District Commissioner's Office, Salt Pond,
December 24, 1886.

SIR,

In submitting the usual report on my district for the month of November last, I have but few observations to offer.

2. The imports yielded an increased revenue of 850*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*
3. The exports show an increase of 472*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* over the preceding month.
4. The fluctuations are so trifling as to call for no observations.
5. The sanitary condition of the district continues good.

6. A riot occurred at Abowinim on the 16th of November during the celebration of a funeral custom, *vide* my letter dated the 2nd instant, reporting the same. GOLD COAST.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. M. BENNETT,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Salt Pond to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

District Commissioner's Office, Salt Pond,
December 2, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour respectfully to report that a riot occurred at Abowinim on the 16th ultimo during the celebration of a funeral custom.

2. Abowinim is a small village about 23 miles from Salt Pond, and is situated on the main road to Edjumakon.

3. I may mention, Sir, that on my arrival at Abbarsah on the 17th ultimo, I heard casually that there had been a disturbance in the neighbourhood the day before. I questioned the Chief Quah Yamfull, and he told me there had been no disturbance, but that a few small boys had been throwing stones at each other, and that he had inquired into the same and had settled it. I was consequently much surprised a few days later at Salt Pond in learning that there had actually been a riot of a serious nature between the Abbarahs and the Inkogoes, and that several people had been wounded with cutlasses on both sides, and one man was brought to Salt Pond in a critical condition from the effects of the wounds he had received in the head.

4. I felt it to be my duty to return up country and inquire into the matter, as I could not gather the necessary information here. In the meantime, however, seven men had been placed under arrest charged with cutting and wounding with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm. Some of these men were arrested on sworn informations, and others were handed over to the police by the people complaining.

5. I left Salt Pond on the evening of the 26th ultimo and arrived at Abbarsah in the afternoon of the following day, and I at once sent for the Chiefs and headmen of the villages concerned. Owing to the illness of Cuffee Awah, Chief of Inkogoe, the inquiry did not take place till the 30th ultimo, Sunday intervening. Abbarsah was the most convenient place for holding the inquiry.

6. I took the evidence in writing, in the presence of the prisoners whom I brought from Salt Pond, of those persons in a position to give information. And I bound over the Chiefs and headmen

GOLD COAST. of Abbarsah and Inkogoe in the sum of 100*l.* each to keep the peace for the space of six months. From this inquiry I arrived at the conclusion that there had been a riot at Abowinim on the 16th ultimo between certain people from Abbarsah and Inkogoe, and that some of the people belonging to Abowinim had participated in the same, their protestations of innocence to the contrary notwithstanding. I bound over those persons who gave material evidence to appear and prosecute and give evidence at Salt Pond when the case comes on for regular magisterial investigation. I shall in due course report the result thereof. I do not consider it necessary to trouble you with a copy of the notes of inquiry taken by me at Abbarsah.

7. I returned to Salt Pond on the 1st instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. M. BENNETT,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Salt Pond, to the COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

District Commissioner's Office, Salt Pond,
February 19, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit a report on my district for the month of December last, and to apologize for not having done so at an earlier date.

2. The revenue collected during December amounted to 1,501*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* The expenditure under all headings was 214*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*

3. The value of the imports was 4,778*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, while the exports amounted to 3,002*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

4. Only five criminal cases came before me for adjudication during the period under review, including one of a quasi criminal character, in which a man was charged with selling rum by wholesale with a retail license; of these there were four convictions. In the remaining case the prisoner was discharged.

5. There were no disturbances in the district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. M. BENNETT,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Salt Pond, to the COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

District Commissioner's Office, Salt Pond,
February 21, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that there were no disturbances in this district during the past month.

2. The revenue amounted to 1,965*l.* 12*s.*, and the expenditure GOLD COAST. was 159*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*

3. The imports amounted in value to 3,508*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, and produce to the value of 6,252*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* was exported.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. M. BENNETT,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Salt Pond, to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

District Commissioner's Office, Salt Pond,

SIR,

November 19, 1886.

I HAVE the honour respectfully to report that, agreeably with the instructions conveyed to me in your letter dated the 27th ultimo, I left Salt Pond on the 13th instant and proceeded to Mankessim.

2. The road from Salt Pond to Mankessim runs in a north-easterly direction, is fairly direct, and nearly quite level. I found this road in excellent condition. The bush bordering the road is scanty and of slight growth.

3. The only obstacle on this road is a swamp immediately in front of Mankessim. It is about 100 yards in extent. This is merely a depression in the road; at present there is 3 feet of water at this point, caused by the rains a few days before. During the rainy seasons the depth of the water is said to reach 5 feet; travellers are then ferried across in a canoe, whereas in the dry seasons the water disappears altogether. The road should be raised, or a pile bridge might be thrown across.

4. Quacoe Immill, the King of the Fantee tribe, lives at Mankessim.

5. From Mankessim to Ayan Maim the road is directly north, and good. About one and a half miles from Mankessim the river Amissah (known there as the Oni) is reached. There is a fall here of about 12 feet. The river itself is not more than 30 yards wide, but it is surrounded by a formidable swamp about one mile in extent. This swamp is caused by the overflowing of the river. I had the greatest difficulty in crossing. After travelling 100 yards in a large canoe the river was crossed; but the water soon became so shallow that I had to leave the canoe and take to my hammock for a considerable distance till deep water was reached, then I embarked in a smaller canoe, with my hammock, four hammockmen and all, which finally conveyed me to terra firma. I was exactly one hour and ten minutes in crossing. I had then to wait for my interpreter, the remaining hammockmen, escort, and carriers, some of whom swam the river "where ford there was none." When the entire party arrived at Ayan Maim,

GOLD COAST.

I found that four hours had elapsed since leaving Mankessim, distant only three miles. That portion of the swamp through which I had per force to travel in the hammock is difficult and even dangerous on account of the treacherous nature of the bottom, which is full of holes and so slippery that the men were continually stumbling and threatening every moment to fall, and bring the heavy pole of the hammock down on my head. I have the honour to remark, Sir, that this is the dry season; only a few passing showers of rain have recently fallen.

6. I am of opinion that another road should be made between Mankessim and Ayan Maim without delay, and I have therefore the honour to renew the recommendations made in my letter dated the 2nd of July last, because in the rainy seasons this swamp is impassable by Europeans; and the natives, who are complaining loudly about it even in its present condition, having to pay double fare and incur the risks of breaking their legs in the numerous holes, and of losing their head-loads of palm oil, &c. by falling or, perhaps, sticking suddenly in the ooze.

7. From the village of Ayan Maim the road turns abruptly to the west. The village of Ayan Maim is only half a mile distant from the swamp. Quasie Aicondoor is the Chief of Ayan Maim. The road between Ayan Maim and Baidoo Crome is bordered with numerous palms and large forest trees. From Baidoo Crome to Edjumakon the palms disappear and an impenetrable jungle obtains. The town of Denkera is situated between Baidoo Crome and Edjumakon. Quasie Arkorfull is the acting Chief. The road makes an abrupt turn nearly due east from Denkera to Edjumakon.

8. From Edjumakon the road turns to the north-west, and there is a gradual fall of about 1,000 feet. Immediately before reaching Bessardie there is a rise of about 200 feet. The sanitary arrangements of Bessardie are excellent. The town is situated on sloping ground, the streets are wide, and very clean, and trenched throughout. The valley to the north and east is thickly planted with palms.

9. The road between Edjumakon and Bessardie is also fringed with beautiful palms, plantations of corn, plantains, sweet potato, and other root crops occur at short intervals throughout the entire road from Salt Pond. Good accommodation is available for European travellers at the towns of Mankessim, Edjumakon, and Bessardie.

10. I have the honour respectfully to recommend that a good road be made and kept up between Salt Pond and Bessardie along the present path, which is well adapted for it. A grant of 2*l.* per mile per annum, payable quarterly to the respective Kings and Chiefs, should be made therefor, and they should be assisted with felling axes and other tools, as large forest trees frequently fall across the road, and cannot be removed without proper tools. When a tree falls across the road, as the natives have not the means of removing it, they simply cut the bush away

and carry the road round the tree. In course of time the tree decays and disappears; in the meanwhile, however, thick bush has grown where the tree fell, and the old road is never resumed. This is the cause of the roads being so tortuous. The palm oil district to the west terminates at Bessardie. There are numerous villages in the surrounding forests, at all of which palm oil is manufactured, and palm kernels are collected and carried on the heads of natives to Mankessim, where the palm oil is put up in puncheons and rolled down to Salt Pond ready for exportation. The palm kernels are carried in small quantities at a time direct to Salt Pond and bagged there for exportation. There is also a considerable trade in palm wine, yams, plantains, corn, &c. between these inland towns and villages and the thriving coast town of Salt Pond.

GOLD COAST.
—

11. Immediately to the north of Edjumakon is said to be situated the towns of Esscecoomah and Akim Swaidroo, where rubber and gum coprah is said to abound. There is no need of extending the new road to those places.

12. I next proceeded from Edjumakon to survey the road passing through the oil region to the east. I found the road nearly due east to the town of Assassan. Quamin Affull is the Chief of Assassan. After leaving Assassan the road proceeds mainly to the north, but is very tortuous and hilly, the bottoms were in nearly every instance muddy, if not full of water. This is owing to the fact that the surrounding bush is so thick and high that very little of the sun reaches the ground. This could be easily remedied by clearing the bush and widening the road.

13. Assaman is the next town: Cudjoe Abban, King of the Edjumakon district, lives at Assaman.

14. From Assaman to Ayansah the road takes a southerly course, and is hilly, but fairly direct. The river Amissah crosses the road a little to the south of the village of Appam. The ground contiguous to the river is not high, but the river has cut a deep channel for itself. The water glides along very peacefully, and is not more than 50 yards wide. There is no swamp or over-flow from the river at this point, and the crossing is all that can be desired. From the river to Mankessim the road turns to the west.

15. There is a good deal of traffic over this road, and I have the honour respectfully to recommend that it be widened and kept in continuous repair. The Chiefs should be supplied with tools by the Government, and a grant of 2*l.* per mile per annum should be made for the up-keep thereof.

16. The products of the country through which this road passes consist of palm oil, palm kernels, palm wine, yams, plantains, and minor articles, for all of which ready sale is obtained at Salt Pond. I had interviews with the Chiefs of most of the towns and villages.

17. Good accommodation is available for European travellers at Assaman and at Ayansah, and throughout the entire journey I observed a growing inclination among the natives toward habits

GOLD COAST. of cleanliness and comfort in the arrangements of their houses; and, to judge from appearances, I believe that the Kings and Chiefs up country are extremely well affected towards the Government. I may mention, Sir, in conclusion, that formerly the trade of the district was almost entirely in the hands of three or four English firms of merchants, whose principal agents lived at Salt Pond, whereas it is now largely shared by natives from the interior of this district, many of whom have settled at Salt Pond. There is consequently more money in circulation in the district, and the natives, other than the bushmen and labourers, are no longer satisfied with the bare necessities of life.

18. I have the honour to forward herewith a return showing the distances travelled by me and the names of the Kings and Chiefs in charge of the roads.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. M. BENNETT,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

A Return showing the several Kings and Chiefs who have Charge of the various Portions of the Roads within the District of Salt Pond, with their offshoots, and the Number of Miles in charge of each.

Principal Trade Routes.

Names of Towns and Villages between which the several Chiefs have the charge of the Road.	Names of Kings and Chiefs.	No. of Miles.	Total No. of Miles.
From Salt Pond to Abonkoo -	Chief Quow Argim - -	4	
From Abonkoo to River Amissah	King Quacoe Immill - -	9	
From River Amissah to Baidoo Crome.	Chief Quasie Arcoondor -	4	
From Baidoo Crome to Arkakooambonquantah.	Chief Quasie Arkoful (Acting)	10	
From Arkakooambonquantah to Edjumakon.	King Cudjoe Abban - -	2	
From Edjumakon to Bessardie-	Chief Cudjoe Balm - -	3	
		32	

GOLD COAST.

Names of Towns and Villages between which the several Chiefs have the charge of the Road.	Names of Kings and Chiefs.	No. of Miles.	Total No. of Miles.
From Edjumakon to Assaman -	King Cudjoe Abban -	6	
From Assaman to Mandoo -	Do. -	5	
From Mandoo to Appam -	Chief Quow Yanfull -	13	
From Appam to Mankessim -	King Quacoe Immill -	3	
From Mankessim to Salt Pond -	Do. -	11	
		88	70

(Signed) S. M. BENNETT,
Salt Pond, 19th November 1886. District Commissioner.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Cape Coast, to the ACTING
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Commissioner's Office, Cape Coast,
December 7, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward this my monthly report on the district of Cape Coast for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

Some Adansis about middle of last month waylaid and robbed a number of peaceful Ashantee traders returning from the coast, killing and wounding about seven of them; this may account for the small number of persons crossing the Prah and the consequent falling off in trade, which must sooner or later seriously affect the prosperity of this place.

To prevent this again occurring I would respectfully suggest that an officer be stationed at Prahsue and patrol the road with the Houssas stationed there, between the river and the place where this outrage took place; this would insure the safety of those trading to the coast.

An officer of constabulary has been recently on a tour of inspection on the Great North Road and its branches, upon whose report, doubtless, the 12 months' road money due to the several Chiefs for keeping it clear will now be paid.

In the early part of the month a rupture between two of the town companies nearly led to a serious riot, but was effectually checked, and the town has since been quiet; the lesson taught by the imprisonment and fining the captains will, I think, have a most beneficial effect on would be disturbers of the public peace in future.

GOLD COAST. I would here respectfully suggest that all flags at present in possession of companies should be abolished, and the Government grant to each instead a single red ensign of limited dimensions, with the number of the company in the fly.

I am certain if such were adopted that many serious outbreaks would be averted.

This might be adopted throughout the Colony; the distinguishing mark for each district being the colour in which the company numbers are imprinted, thus for Elmina "black," Cape Coast Salt Pond "white," &c., which would prevent confusion in "blue," the event of a native contingent being at any time required.

It will be seen below that there is a very serious falling off in trade as compared with the corresponding month last year.

Revenue.

			£	s.	d.
During month	-	-	1,794	2	8
Same month last year	-	-	3,030	10	4
Decrease	-	-	1,236	7	8

Expenditure.

			£	s.	d.
During month	-	-	1,131	18	9
Same month last year	-	-	1,500	7	6
Decrease	-	-	368	8	9

Imports.

			£	s.	d.
During month	-	-	9,319	13	0
Same month last year	-	-	13,110	17	8
Decrease	-	-	3,791	4	8

Exports.

			£	s.	d.
During month	-	-	7,706	0	6
Same month last year	-	-	10,715	19	3
Decrease	-	-	3,009	18	9

These figures show a heavy fall in the revenue consequent on a large decrease in the imports and the exports; this no doubt is due to the disturbed state of the interior, and the perils incurred by traders on the roads leading to the Protectorate.

The expenditure has, however, decreased, which is, I think, due to the works in hand last year being of more consequence, such as the main drain, for instance, then in course of construction. GOLD COAST.

In conclusion, I may state that the sanitary state of the town is satisfactory, and consequently the health of the community is good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. WENTWORTH FORBES,
District Commissioner.

The Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Cape Coast to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Commissioner's Office, Cape Coast,
January 17, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward this my report on the Cape Coast District for the month of December last, and in doing so beg to express my regret to his Excellency that an overflow of work, consequent on the ending of the year, has prevented me from having done so previously.

Christmas with its usual festivities passed quietly, especially so among the lower class of native, who look forward to this season as a fitting time, after copious quantities of drink, to settle old grievances, which end sometimes in serious faction fights, were this year distinguished by their orderly behaviour, in fact, there was not a single person brought before me in court charged with drunkenness or misbehaviour.

2. The number of prisoners in the gaol averages about 41, and it has struck me that some of them might be employed to greater advantage if, for instance, those possessed of a trade were to work at their handicraft in the gaol yard instead of going out on the public works, &c. This only, of course, to be when there is a need of their services. At present I have in this gaol the following trades: blacksmith, one; coopers, three; carpenter, one; brick-layer, one; tailor, one; clerk, one. These might be utilized as they were required; for instance, the tailor could mend the prison clothing, make the officers their uniforms, &c.

3. I would also bring to your notice the utter absence there is of precautionary measure against fire in any of the Government establishments here; I would, therefore, recommend that a number of wooden fire buckets be made at once with rope handles and suspended at convenient and handy places about the public buildings, in the yards of which are capacious tanks which would give the water supply for arresting a conflagration, such as the breaking out of fire in the Commissioner's house built over the Queen's Warehouse, which is usually filled with spirits.

GOLD COAST.

4. Having occasion to visit the store under the Colonial Hospital some short time ago, and used by the Public Works Department, I found a number of kegs of powder stowed on a shelf next to paraffin oil and surrounded by inflammable material of all sorts. I pointed out the danger of this to Mr. Wheeler, foreman of works, and as this officer informed me there was no where else to put it, I requested him to stow it in the magazine.

5. The troubles across the Prah have prevented traders from coming down to this town, the numbers having crossed from Ashantee in the last week of the old year being reduced to three. This may be accounted for in a large measure by the marauding parties on the road, who will, however, disappear now that an officer with Houssa escort conducts traders through the Adansi country.

6. Trade is in a wretched condition, as will be seen by the accompanying statistics.

Revenue.

			£	s.	d.
During month	-	-	1,740	5	7
Same month last year	-	-	3,824	0	6
Decrease	-		2,083	14	11

Expenditure.

			£	s.	d.
During month	-	-	1,371	3	10
Same month last year	-	-	966	13	10
Increase	-		404	10	0

The above figures show a very serious falling off in the revenue with an increase of expenditure as compared with the same month in 1885; this increase, however, I think is due to the fact that the work on the new drain had ceased and the works department are still on the new tank, and also the expenditure on the Prah Road has to be considered. The imports and exports show, however, a corresponding increase.

Imports.

			£	s.	d.
During month	-	-	9,730	13	7
Same month last year	-	-	7,580	10	3
Increase	-		2,150	3	4

Exports.

			£	s.	d.
During month	-	-	8,266	13	11
Previous month	-	-	7,706	0	6
Increase	-		560	13	5

			£	s.	d.
During month	-	-	8,266	13	11
Same month last year	-	-	6,007	4	4
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			2,259	9	7

GOLD COAST.

7. In conclusion, I would add that rain has fallen heavily at frequent intervals during the past month, which is most unusual for this season of the year, and in consequence I regret to say that the roads in and about the town have suffered considerably; these will be repaired when the rains have ceased.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. WENTWORTH FORBES,
District Commissioner.

To the Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Elmina, to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

District Commissioner's Office, Elmina,
December 16, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency, that during the month of November the revenue was less than during the previous month, and less than during the corresponding month of last year; but that the expenditure was also less.

Revenue.

			£	s.	d.
November 1885	-	-	1,878	8	11
October 1886	-	-	720	2	1
November 1886	-	-	554	8	0

Expenditure.

			£	s.	d.
November 1885	-	-	1,733	19	0
October 1886	-	-	1,262	7	2
November 1886	-	-	1,251	17	2

Imports, Value.

			£	s.	d.
November 1885	-	-	1,421	4	2
October 1886	-	-	1,634	4	10
November 1886	-	-	713	1	0

Exports, Value.

			£	s.	d.
November 1885	-	-	1,235	15	10
October 1886	-	-	42	1	6
November 1886	-	-	246	15	9

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GOLD COAST.

Thus it will be seen that imports and exports have also declined, except in exports November 1886 as compared with October 1886. This general decline I attribute to the obstruction offered to Ashanti traders by the Adansis.

The roads have been cleared and paid for.

Seventy-two men were engaged for the service of the Niger Company, but as labourers *not* soldiers. They were raised from Commendah. In November there were 23 criminal convictions as compared with 14 in the previous month, and three committals to prison as compared with four committals in previous month.

The slight increase in number of convictions is due to a petty street fight, in which a number of women were engaged.

There were no commitments for trial.

The district is peaceable, but trade is most alarmingly depressed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. M. D. STEWART,
District Commissioner.

To the Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Secondee, to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Monthly Report, Secondee District, November 1886.

SIR,

Secondee, December 1, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the district has remained quiet and peaceful.

I have heard of no more quarrels between the companies, and to all appearance their Chiefs and headmen seem now friendly to each other.

Journeys.

On the 10th instant I visited Mansue in accordance with instructions received from you.

Rivers.

I may, perhaps, here mention that at Mansue, about 150 yards from the town, I found the Quin (Amanful River) flowing in a direction south-east towards the sea. It is here about 30 feet wide, and knee-deep. Its bed covered with gravels and sand. When full the river is about 18 feet high here, and its current must be excessively rapid. The banks are high, covered by a dense forest.

Good drinking water is obtained here from the river; but I regret to remark that at a short distance from the place where the water is drawn I found men and women washing themselves; the men standing at a distance of about 10 yards from the women.

On my return journey I also crossed the Amanquan River, near the village Ahiaame. It flows at a very short distance from this village in a south-easterly direction, opening itself into the sea near Chama. GOLD COAST.

When I crossed it was about 20 to 25 feet wide, knee-deep, and its current very sluggish. The bottom is also of sand and gravels.

To all appearance the Bontry River and the Quin seem to have one and the same source ; I am, however, not quite sure of this.

Nature of the Country.

As I receded from the coast the country became gradually a thick forest, until it is quite dense before I reach Mansue. It is well watered by the streams running through it. Its soil is rich. There are numerous cultivations, and these are mostly in the valleys.

Towns and Villages.

Mansue is situated on a little eminence, it is surrounded by a dense forest ; it counts about 140 houses and 830 inhabitants, who live mostly in plantation villages. The town looks neat, it boasts of one regular main street. Industry is farming, the men clear the forest, leaving the planting and culture generally to their women.

Supplies for sheep, stock, &c. are very scanty at Mansue, perhaps owing to supplies sent to Tarquah in former times.

Roads.

I regret to state that I have not been able to make any progress with the proposed road mentioned in my last report. I have had no time to be with the people, whom I know could not do the work properly unless I am present with them.

I hope I shall be able to do this shortly.

With the exception of this portion of the road (sea-coast) all have been kept in good condition.

Sanitation.

I am glad to observe that my efforts to improve the sanitation of this district have not been fruitless during the month past. I do not find so much offensive matters accumulated in the towns as it used to be. The clearing of the grass around the town is going on gradually.

Crimes.

I have had no crimes of serious nature reported to me during the month past.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. VROOM,
District Commissioner

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Secondee to the ACTING
COLONIAL SECRETARY.*Monthly Report, Secondee District, December 1886.*

SIR,

Secondee, January 6, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the Secondee District remained quiet and peaceful during the past month.

2. In consequence of the death of King Andries, of the New British Secondee, there has been a great bustle here; several Kings and Chiefs from the other places came in to "make custom" for the deceased, and went out peacefully.

3. The sanitary state of the district is improving by degrees. The towns and villages received all the attention I could possibly give them.

4. Between the 25th and 27th ultimo the mouth of the Amanful River closed suddenly, and on the 28th it opened again at another spot, about 15 yards from the former, the mouth becoming so wide and distorted, and with a current so strong, as to make the crossing rather somewhat difficult for a few days.

5. The recent action of this river damaged a portion of the sea-coast road running near it, which I have asked the Chiefs to repair.

With this exception the roads on the sea-coast are in good condition, and I am now directing my attention to the "bush roads."

6. I have heard of no serious crimes during the month past.

7. At Adjuah several persons were charged with, and tried for, possessing "bad Fetish" by the native court. The persons accused refusing to give up the Fetish were tied up to a tree for some hours; the constables heard of it, and released the prisoners.

8. The following is a brief account of revenue and expenditure for the month:—

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Customs - - -	425	14	10
Court fees and fines - -	9	5	0
Extra services' fees - -	1	5	0
Stamps sold - - -	0	3	6
	436	8	4

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Establishments - - -	54	15	1
Services - - -	27	2	6
	81	17	7

I remitted on the 31st ultimo to the District Commissioner at GOLD COAST.
Cape Coast the sum of 349*l.* 10*s.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. VROOM,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Secondee, to the ACTING COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

Monthly Report, January 1887.

SIR,

Secondee, February 4, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the quiet and peaceful state of the Secondee District for the month of January last.

2. The offences reported to the Commissioner are few and of no serious nature.

3. Matters concerning the sanitation of the towns and villages received due attention and supervision during the month past.

4. Revenue collected from all sources during the month past is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Customs duties - - -	331	15	8
Duty on spirit license - - -	141	0	0
Court fees and fines - - -	5	13	6
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	0	12	1

5. Expenditure for the same period amounted to :—

	£	s.	d.
Establishment - - -	55	9	1
Services - - -	10	16	9

6. I remitted to the District Commissioner at Cape Coast the sum of 419*l.* during the month past.

7. I am steadily progressing with the new road, which I propose to join the Chama Tacquah road from this place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. VROOM,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST. DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Secondee, to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Monthly Report, Secondee District, February 1887.

SIR,

Secondee, March 3, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the district remained quiet and peaceful during the past month.

Political.

2. I observed during the past month that the feeling between the Chiefs of the old and new British Secondee has not been very friendly; this is perhaps engendered by a claim made by late King Andries' party to a certain boundary in this town.

I must, however, add that this feeling is not likely to disturb the peaceful state of the town.

Crimes.

3. Two cases of serious nature came to my knowledge during the past month. The first was one of shooting near Esseaman, a small village near Chama. The wounded man died about eight days afterwards.

I have committed the man charged with the offence for trial at the next assizes.

The second case was one of assault and wounding; the accused is here awaiting trial.

4. The following is a brief account of revenue and expenditure for the month past :—

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Customs duties - - -	334	2	1
Duty on spirit licenses - -	13	5	0
Court fees and fines - - -	6	18	6
Miscellaneous receipts - -	1	7	11
	<hr/>		
	355	13	6
	<hr/>		

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Establishments - - -	52	17	4
Services - - -	10	17	2
	<hr/>		
	63	14	6
	<hr/>		

*Remittances.*GOLD COAST.
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5. I remitted for the month the sum of 290*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* to the District Commissioner at Cape Coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. VROOM,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Dixcove, to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Monthly Report, Dixcove District, November 1886.

SIR,

Dixcove, December 6, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that a dispute as to the ownership of certain lands in Bontry River pending between Chiefs Abaclo and Korkro nearly caused a great disturbance in that river during the past month, but as these Chiefs are under recognizances to keep the peace, I sent and reminded them of their obligations as soon as I heard of the quarrel.

The other places remained quiet and peaceful during the month past.

Roads.

2. The clearing of the road to Acquida is now completed. I have directed the sandy portions of it to be swished over, and the people have commenced doing so.

The Bontry Pompondee Road requires repairing, and I have given the necessary instructions to the Chiefs.

Sanitation.

3. My efforts in this direction has not been of no avail during the past month, since I observe the Chiefs themselves are taking some interest in the matter. The clearing of the grass around and removal of the filthy matters are going well gradually.

Crimes.

4. I have heard of no offences of serious nature during the month past.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. VROOM,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST. DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Dixcove to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Monthly Report, December 1886.

SIR,

Dixcove, January 3, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that during the month past a riot took place at Kanfu Kroom in Acquidah bush; it was not of a very serious nature.

The Chief of Acquidah prosecuted 18 of the ringleaders to conviction. These were ordered to pay a fine of 5*l.* each, or three months' imprisonment in default of payment.

2. I have heard of no really serious quarrels between the Chiefs in the Bontry River since my last report.

3. The roads along the sea coast are in good condition. I have now directed my attention to those which communicate with the interior.

4. During the past month I received many complaints with regard to the insanitary state of the stagnant water "Piah" existing in this town, and I shall be glad to see something done towards its improvements.

5. The towns and villages in this district have been kept as clean as I possibly can.

6. The following are crimes brought to the notice of the Commissioner during the month past, namely:—

Riot	-	-	-	18 convicted
Larceny	-	-	-	1 do.
Assault and wounding	-	-	-	2 committed for trial.
Escape	-	-	-	1 do.
Attempts to commit suicide	-	-	-	1 convicted.

Native Courts.

7. The Kings and Chiefs here held several courts last month, inquiring into charges made against several persons for possessing poisonous things to endanger human life; or to hurt or annoy others.

Some of the persons accused have given up the things to be destroyed, and they were burnt by the Chiefs in the public streets, whilst others have refused even to attend to the call of the Chiefs.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. VROOM,

District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.

&c.

&c.

&c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Dixcove to the ACTING
COLONIAL SECRETARY.GOLD COAST.

Monthly Report, January 1887.

SIR,

Dixcove, February 1, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the district of Dixcove remained quiet and peaceful during the month past.

Crimes.

2. No offences of serious nature were brought to the notice of the Commissioner.

Roads.

3. I have not been able to do much towards the cleaning of the Bushua-Agona road; but I hope it shall be completed before the end of this month. Along the sea coast the roads are in good condition.

Sanitation.

4. The sanitary condition of the town of Dixcove is not very satisfactory; I am, however, doing my best to keep the town and its villages as clean as it possibly could be done.

5. The following is a brief account of revenue and expenditure during the month past, namely:—

	£	s.	d.
Customs receipts - - -	104	16	8
Licenses (spirits) - - -	46	15	0
Court fees and fines - - -	7	3	0
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	4	3	5
	<u>162</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>

	£	s.	d.
Expended on establishments - - -	63	6	0
Services - - -	20	8	1
	<u>83</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>

Remittance for the month, forwarded to the District Commissioner, Cape Coast, amounted to 80*l.* 10*s.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. VROOM,

District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.

&c.

&c.

&c.

GOLD COAST.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Dixcove, to the ACTING
COLONIAL SECRETARY.*Dixcove District, Monthly Report, February 1887.*

SIR,

Dixcove, March 1, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the district has been quiet during the past month.

There is nothing political to report; I hear of no quarrels amongst the Chiefs.

Roads.

I inspected the principal roads during the month past and found them in good condition.

I superintended myself at many places the cleaning of the roads, and found the people always willing to add to the work such improvements as I could suggest.

Sanitation.

The sanitation of the towns and villages received its share of my attention.

Crimes.

During the month past two crimes of serious nature were brought to my notice; the first was for assault and the second for embezzlement.

I have nothing of interest to report of the native courts in this district.

The following is a brief account of receipts and expenditure during the month past:—

Receipts.

			£	s.	d.
Customs duties	-	-	-	83	5 3
Duty on spirit license	-	-	-	2	10 0
Court fees and fines	-	-	-	15	0 0
Miscellaneous receipts	-	-	-	1	14 6
				<u>102</u>	<u>9 9</u>

Expenditure.

			£	s.	d.
Establishment	-	-	-	65	1 7
Services	-	-	-	38	10 9
				<u>103</u>	<u>12 4</u>

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. VROOM,

District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.

&c.

&c.

&c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Axim to the COLONIAL
SECRETARY.GOLD COAST.

SIR,

Axim, December 2, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that I have been unable to make my monthly inspection of the road to Princes through having met with the accident to my leg which has prevented me from taking out-door exercise for about three weeks. I am glad to say, however, that my leg is now all right, but it is only within the last few days that I have been able to resume my out-door duties.

I made an inspection of the road to Ancobra River two or three days ago, and found it to be in a very good condition.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. MUSGROVE,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary. District Commissioner.
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Axim, to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

The Fort, Axim, January 7, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that last month I made an inspection of the road from Axim to the Ankobra River, which I found to be in very good order. On the 28th December 1886 I inspected the road from Axim to Princes River; this road was also in good order, with the exception of a certain part of the road where a large tree had fallen across it; this I had cleared away before my return journey.

I have also had the bridges repaired on both of these roads wherever they required it.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. MUSGROVE,

District Commissioner.

The Hon: The Acting Colonial Secretary.
&c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Axim, to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Axim, February, 4, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to state that I inspected the road between Axim and the Ankobra River during last month. I found it to be in good order; the bridges were also in good condition.

GOLD COAST

It was my intention to have started last Saturday to Princes to make my monthly inspection of the road, but owing to a man having been stabbed on the Thursday previous, Doctor Eyles asked me not to go, as the case may prove fatal, so that my presence here is necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. MUSGROVE,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.
&c. &c. &c.

GIBRALTAR.GIBRALTAR.

No. 18.

Governor Sir A. E. HARDINGE, G.C.B., C.I.E., to the Right
Hon. Sir H. T. HOLLAND, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

SIR, Gibraltar, March 12, 1887.
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of
Gibraltar for the year 1886, with a report by the Colonial Secretary thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. HARDINGE,
General and Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland,
&c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Gibraltar,
YOUR EXCELLENCY, March 1, 1887.
I DESIRE to submit the Blue Book for 1886, together with
my report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GIFFORD,
Colonial Secretary.
His Excellency the Hon.
Sir A. E. HARDINGE, G.C.B., C.I.E., Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

Finance.

The revenue amounted to 1,314,546 pesetas (52,123*l.*), the expenditure being 1,270,834 pesetas (50,389*l.*). The balance of assets over liabilities reached 60,077 pesetas (2,403*l.*) on the 31st December last. The financial condition of the Colony may therefore be considered in a sound state and to be completely restored.

Comparing the revenue with that of the previous year, a considerable increase is disclosed, attributable to the revival of trade, which was in a very depressed condition in 1885, owing to the appearance of cholera here and on the Mediterranean Seaboard.

The transfer of the Post Office from the Imperial to the Colonial Government benefited the revenue to a very great and appreciable extent, the transactions of the Office being considerable.

On the expenditure side there is a slight increase over that of the previous year, mainly due to the Post Office Establishment. The strictest regard to economy, consistent with efficiency of administration, has been exercised in all departments, in order that this Colony might again be placed on a financially sound basis.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt in this Colony.

Legislation.

The following laws were passed during the year :—

- 1.—“ Medical Ordinance, Gibraltar, 1885.”
- 2.—“ Merchant Shipping Ordinance, Gibraltar, 1886.”
- 3.—“ Quarantine Order in Council, 1885.”
- 4.—“ Ordinance to amend the Revenue Order in Council, Gibraltar, 1884.”
- 5.—“ Order in Council for revising and consolidation of the laws of Gibraltar.”
- 6.—“ Ordinance for providing subsistence for persons imprisoned for debt.”
- 7.—“ Port Order in Council, Gibraltar, 1886.”

The Merchant Shipping Ordinance is one of the most important laws that has ever been passed at Gibraltar. Its provisions provide for the regulation of all vessels navigating the waters of Gibraltar, and prevent unseaworthy ships proceeding to sea, and ensure the seaworthiness of vessels employed between Gibraltar and the ports on the Spanish and African coasts. The Ordinance is adapted from the English Acts and from the law in force in Hong Kong. The want of such a law had long been felt, as ships trading here were practically never surveyed, and became in a most dangerous condition in some instances.

The “ Port Order in Council ” is a consolidation and amendment of the laws relating to the police and the navigation and use of the port. One of the most important provisions of this law enacts that any owner, agent, or master who permits a vessel or boat to sail or pull about between first evening gun-fire and the time of morning gun-fire, except with permission, may be fined a sum not exceeding 2,500 pesetas. The object of this is to prevent, as far as possible, any contraband traffic with Spain, the Government of that country having alleged that smuggling was largely carried on after dark by boats from this bay. The insertion of the clause may be considered as a friendly courtesy extended

GIBRALTAR. — to a neighbouring Power, the interests of which it is most desirable to assist in every possible way compatible with the good government of Gibraltar. The law, to a large extent, has met the objects for which it was passed, and an improvement in the shipping is noticeable, notwithstanding that difficulties and obstacles have to some extent been placed wherever possible to the effective working of some of the provisions.

The Order in Council relating to quarantine abolished the old law, which in many respects had become obsolete, having been passed in the year 1830. More extended powers are given to the Board of Health under the new Order, the provisions of which were decided upon after reference to the Spanish Government.

Establishments.

The year 1886 will ever be memorable for the acquisition by the Colony of the local post office, which had been under the management of the Imperial Government, the Imperial Treasury retaining the profits, which must have been considerable, as from the returns it will be observed that the revenue was 146,636 pesetas (5,814*l.*), and the expenditure 84,596 (3,354*l.*), notwithstanding that expense of a considerable amount had to be incurred in dies, stationery, &c. The post office has been worked in a very advantageous manner, and the new administration has given the greatest satisfaction to the public, and the advantages of postal communication have been extended to the principal towns of Morocco in connection with the chief office.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the bank at the end of the year was 1,213, and the sums deposited during the year amounted to 552,780 pesetas. The total sum invested for the benefit of the bank amounted at the close of the year to 31,482*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* (exclusive of interest accruing to the amount of 96*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*) which shows an increase of 9,230*l.* as compared with 1885.

The bank is still largely availed of, especially by the poorer classes, as a means for investing small savings.

Public Works.

Waterport Wharf.—The work that was commenced at the close of last year of extending this wharf may be said to have been terminated. The extension will be of the greatest convenience to the trading community. The works have been well carried out, and the cranes that are now placed on the wharf will be of the greatest utility in the shipping and landing of cargo.

Civil Hospital.—The small block estimated for was undertaken and brought to completion, leaving only one division, the women's ward, to be completed. The hospital is one that any Colony might be proud of, and is reckoned one of the finest institutions of the kind out of the United Kingdom.

In the Alameda Gardens great improvements were carried out, reflecting credit on the Government gardener. GIBRALTAR.

Buildings.

It is encouraging to notice buildings of a better class in progress. These houses will give increased accommodation to a number of the inhabitants, and, as they have been erected in conformity with the building regulations on improved sanitary principles, they will be of decided benefit to the health of the community. The military regulations do, however, somewhat restrict the erection of fine buildings, which are much required.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of summary convictions before the magistrate was 952, rather more than in 1885, and before the captain of the port 45, or 16 less than in 1885. The majority of these offences were of a very minor character. There were nine cases brought for trial before the Supreme Court, including two of murder. Verdicts for the Crown were returned in eight cases. The extreme sentence of the law was carried out in the case of a Spaniard, who stabbed to death a sapper of the Royal Engineers. In the other case of murder a verdict of manslaughter only was returned, and the prisoner was sentenced to penal servitude for life.

Shipping.

The number of vessels which entered this port was 5,581, representing 4,309,583 tons, showing a very considerable increase over the arrivals of the previous year of no less than 171 vessels, representing 290,049 tons.

The coaling business from hulks is a very large one, but, to secure this trade permanently, most undoubtedly a dock is much required. This important project is now receiving the closest attention and consideration of the Government.

Education.

This subject is about to be considered by a mixed Commission, and it is trusted that the deliberations of this Commission will be the means of placing education on a sound and firm basis.

The Colonial Inspector of Schools reports an improvement in the schools. The total average attendance during the year was 1,206. The inadequacy of the voluntary effort to provide for the education of the children of the place is most apparent. No less than 2,000 children are without any means of education, the school accommodation being insufficient, but as the Commission is about to assemble and report upon all these matters it is unnecessary to allude further to the subject.

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Public Health.

The public health of Gibraltar during the past year has been satisfactory, and compared with the previous year it has been quite uneventful, all "epidemic influence" being absent, the death rate not being very different from the mortality of some large towns in England. Chest diseases were the most prevalent and fatal diseases that occurred. There were no cases of small-pox in the town, but six persons suffering from this disease were landed from the shipping, and it is happily gratifying to find that the arrangements for providing for their treatment in the small-pox hospital have been effected without one single case occurring in the town. This state of things reflects great credit upon all concerned, and especially upon the Port surgeon, who is most assiduous in his duties.

General Remarks.

The prospects of the Colony have greatly improved during the year 1886 when compared with those of the previous year, and the finances of the Colony were never in a more prosperous condition than they are at present, though undoubtedly the greatest care is necessary, as the trade of the port and town is of a most fluctuating character. It will always be necessary, in my opinion, to husband most carefully the revenues, and never to incur, unless absolutely necessary, any large outlay of funds.

The monetary market is not in a satisfactory condition, and heavy loss is incurred by the uncertainty of the current or market rate of exchange. Spain may be said to have virtually a silver coinage at the present time in lieu of a gold one, which acts most prejudicially on the Government rate here. It is anticipated that the currency of Spain will still further be depreciated by the action of the Spanish Government in proposing to demonetize the Isabel issue of dollars, which will have a most depressing effect on the money market. Gibraltar is flooded with coins of debased and obsolete character, and the absorption of these coins in some manner is a question that should receive immediate attention.

The transfer of the Post Office to the Colony is a matter for great congratulation, and the first year's working has been most satisfactory.

I append an asset and liability sheet showing the financial position of the Colony on the 31st December 1886.

(Signed) GIFFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Gibraltar, 1st March 1887

APPENDIX.

GIBRALTAR

*Financial Position of the Colony of Gibraltar on
31st December 1886.*

ASSETS.				LIABILITIES.			
	Pts.	cts.			Pts.	cts.	
Cash balance in Treasurer's hands - - -	19,152	92		Amount due to Crown Agents on the 31st December 1886 (492 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>) -	12,411	60	
Outstanding ground rents -	45,788	68		Outstanding drafts on the Crown Agents (326 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>)	8,234	38	
Outstanding house rents -	1,650	49		Salaries - - -	1,471	16	
Outstanding rent of Governor's cottage - -	910	16		Pensions - - -	4,587	97	
Passage money of Sir John Adye, due by Imperial Government - -	5,044	00		Other liabilities except those for current services -	Nil.		
Advance on loan to Savings Bank - -	14,886	72		Balance credit (2,403 <i>l.</i>) -	60,077	86	
Pesetas -	86,732	92		Pesetas -	86,732	92	

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No. 19.

Governor T. L. GALLWEY to the Right Hon. Sir
H. T. HOLLAND, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

SIR,

Bermuda, March 22, 1887.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit in duplicate, for your information and consideration, the annual Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1886, together with the report thereon which has been prepared by Mr. Cavendish Boyle, Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.

Sir H. T. Holland Bart., M.P., G.C.M.G.
Downing Street.

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Colonial Secretary's Office, Hamilton, Bermuda,

SIR,

March 15, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1886 :—

Finance.

Thirty thousand five hundred and eighteen pounds is returned as the gross amount of public revenue raised during the year, against 28,693*l.* in 1885. The expenditure of 1886 was 28,432*l.*, comparing with 29,396*l.* in the previous year. So that an increase of 1,825*l.* in the revenue is observable, against a decrease in the expenditure of 964*l.* These figures are very satisfactory, and show that the revenue receipts have in no way fallen off in spite of considerable agricultural depression, and of a marked decrease in the value of exports.

2. The revenue and expenditure statements give the following results :—

Receipts.

					£
1885	-	-	-	-	28,693
1886	-	-	-	-	30,518

Expenditure.

					£
1885	-	-	-	-	29,396
1886	-	-	-	-	28,432

3. The amount of the public debt at the end of 1886 was 7,214*l.*, made up as follows :—

			£
Causeway debentures	-	-	3,320
Savings bank depositors	-	-	1,894
New Government House debentures	-	-	2,000

The average rate of interest on the first and last amounts may be taken at 4½ per cent. ; that paid on the savings bank debt being 2½ per cent. During the year 70*l.* was repaid on Causeway debentures due, and 2,000*l.* was contracted for the new Government House works.

In its finances this Colony has always shown very satisfactorily with regard to its public indebtedness, and there does not seem any immediate likelihood of the permanent debt being increased, for under the Act of the Legislature, providing for the building of a residence for the Governor, it is enacted that whilst the Treasury has borrowing powers up to 8,000*l.*, at least 500*l.* of the amount raised must be paid out of public revenue yearly ; and, moreover, if the balances in the public chest admit it, the work is to be paid for from that source, and recourse is only to be had to

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money raised if and when the Receiver General shall advise the executive that the amounts in hand will not prove sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure and to provide for the service of the new building; and as far as at present can be foreseen the revenue raised or to be raised will prove sufficient for all ordinary purposes of the Government.

4. The estimated civilian population pay an average rate of 1*l*. 12*s*. 11*d*. per head in taxation; but it must be borne in mind that the floating population, consisting of the army and navy and dockyard hands, and also of the visitors to these islands during the winter season, contribute in a very large degree to the general revenue raised. For there is no direct taxation whatever, and the principal portion of the revenue is raised by an *ad valorem* duty on importations of 5 per cent., and by specific duties on wine, beer, spirits, and cigars; the balance, amounting to about one tenth of the whole revenue, being accounted for by auction and light dues, miscellaneous receipts, postal revenue, and reimbursements to Government. Of this balance 3,440*l*. is tabulated under the head of postal revenue, 150*l*. is returned for auction duty, 933*l*. for light tolls paid by incoming vessels, 273*l*. for fines of courts, 79*l*. for fees of office, the remainder being accounted for by reimbursements to Government, miscellaneous receipts, and rents. And if allowance is made for some 1,600 persons estimated in the military establishment, a mean of 1,200 in that of the Royal Navy, and some 900 visitors, all of whom contribute as above stated to the general revenue raised by the import duties, it will be seen how very lightly taxed are the actual people of the Colony.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The tables of the above headings give the following returns for 1886 :—

Revenue.

—	Customs.	Other receipts.	Total.
Revenue - - -	£ 24,782	£ 5,786	£ 30,518

Expenditure.

—	Salaries.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
Expenditure - - -	£ 9,891	£ 18,551	£ 28,432

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Compared with 1885 the above tables show the following results :—

Receipts.

	£
In customs an increase for 1886 of -	- 1,546
Other receipts an increase of -	- 279

Expenditure.

	£
In salaries an increase for 1886 of -	- 118
Administration of justice -	- 149
Postal department -	- 210
Police department -	- 117
Roads -	- 111
Works and buildings -	- 209
Drawbacks, a decrease of -	- 135
Education -	- 133
Legislative -	- 222
Miscellaneous -	- 545
Steam communication -	- 687
The totals being, net increase in receipts -	- 1,825
And net decrease in expenditure -	- 964

The comparative tables prepared in the Treasury show as follows :—

Ad valorem duty an increase for 1886 of 684*l.*; cigars, 108*l.*; rum, 271*l.*; spirits, 215*l.*; wine, 223*l.*; and tobacco, 33*l.* The only decrease observable in the customs column being in the landing tax on bonded spirits, which shows 70*l.* less than in 1885.

6. In the Imperial expenditure returns will be found :

	£
Governor's salary -	- 2,199
Military establishments -	- 98,780

the former amount being a fixed parliamentary grant, and the latter showing a decrease on the return of 1885 of 660*l.*

Legislation.

7. The Colonial Legislature met on the 26th of May, and sat until the 29th of September, when it was prorogued, and called together again for a special session on the 1st of December, the latter extending into the present year. The results of the ordinary session were 9 Acts and 11 Resolves.

Of the former the most noteworthy were the Act relating to alimony, and that for the amendment of the Criminal Law of the Colony. The first-named conferred certain necessary powers on the Court of Chancery in specific terms and under specific conditions, and will, it is hoped, be highly useful to a class of women deserving of better treatment than the common law provides.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1886 deals in its first eight sections with the mode of taking depositions on preliminary examinations before magistrates, and in this respect was modelled on the lines of the Imperial Statutes 11 & 12 Vict. c. 42 and 30 & 31 Vict. c. 35. The rest of the Act is intended to provide for the protection of women and girls, and for the punishment of indecent and immoral offences, and is taken almost verbatim from the Imperial Act of 1885. And it is satisfactory that so useful, and, it is to be hoped, deterrent a measure has been added to the Colonial Statute Book.

Of the appropriations voted by resolve the only one calling for any remark is that providing the Board of Agriculture with the means of inquiring into the causes of the disease amongst the onions grown in these islands.

Civil Service of the Colony.

8. In the civil establishments a few changes are to be recorded. Colonel Sandford, Commanding Royal Engineer, was appointed a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils in April. Mr. Gregory V. Lee succeeded Mrs. Anne Haynes Lee as Queen's Printer in June. Consequent on the suspension of Mr. R. F. Hunt, Mr. Allan Smith was appointed Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, and Mr. Seymour Heney took Mr. Smith's place in the Hamilton Post Office. And in September Mr. Joseph T. Gilbert succeeded Mr. J. F. Tatem as Revenue Officer at Ireland Island.

Population and Public Health.

9. The estimated civilian population at the end of 1886 was, according to the Registrar General's report, 15,177, composed of 7,392 males and 7,785 females, and divided into 6,034 white and 9,143 coloured persons. The excess of births over deaths was 140; the general health of the Colony was very good, the death rate averaging 19·3 per thousand of the resident civilian population.

10. No returns of health have been received from the Military Medical Department.

11. In the Naval Department Deputy Surgeon-General M. W. Cowan reported as follows:—

During the year the mean strength of the naval forces at Bermuda has numbered 1,419, being an increase of 382 over what was returned in 1885, mainly attributable to one of the large corvettes remaining here, refitting, paying off, and being re-commissioned by a new crew. The number of dockyard men has averaged 20 more than during the previous year, whilst there has also been an increase of the "Terror's" men by 32.

The health of Ireland Island has been very good, and though 21 additions appear under Group A., sub-groups I and II., several of these came from ships on arrival. One case of death from typhoid is recorded; the disease was well marked, typical during

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life, and in the morbid intestinal post mortem revelations. The man had been on leave at Somerset, and had slept in the open air all night.

One man died from compression of the brain a few hours after sustaining a fracture of the skull. An officer belonging to H.M.S. "Emerald" likewise died from the same cause, the fatal injury having been received on the race-course. Of the four deaths from pneumonia, two occurred in coloured men, one of these was in Somerset, where the case was under treatment by a civil practitioner. The third case belonged to the Training Squadron, the fourth to H.M.S. "Bellerophon." The eighth death recorded in the table was from drowning. A private sail boat was capsized, in which were four men, one of whom was a dockyard labourer.

Dockyard.

The average number of women and children remains as in 1885, viz., 250. The health of these has been satisfactory, no zymotic disease having made its appearance among them. The deaths were three in number, viz., one from pelvic abscess and peritonitis; one from rupture of the uterus during labour; one from meningitis in a girl aged three years.

Imports and Exports.

12. The value of the imports in 1886 was 279,190*l.* against 237,089*l.* in 1885. This total embraces the following:—

Imports from—

				£
United Kingdom	-	-	-	79,037
British Colonies	-	-	-	20,294
Foreign countries	-	-	-	179,859

The total value of exports from the Colony amounted to 75,822*l.* against 84,596 in the previous year. The subdivisions being:—

Exports to—

				£
United Kingdom	-	-	-	2,861
British Colonies	-	-	-	839
Foreign countries	-	-	-	72,122

13. The falling off in the total exports is due to the partial failure of the crop of onions and potatoes, and to considerable and prolonged agricultural depression, which has now prevailed for some three or four years.

14. A new industry, however, is springing up, and is to be hoped that a revival in the producing powers of the islands will follow thereon. Large quantities of the Bermuda Easter Lily

(*Lilium Longiflorum*) are yearly raised for the New York and other American markets; the bulbs after three years' nursing finding a ready and remunerative sale in the cities of the neighbouring Continent. The buds are also shipped in considerable quantities for New York, and even for Canada. Carefully packed, they travel for a week or longer, and then blossom in the cold climates to which they may be sent.

15. Moreover, the increasing influx of winter visitors to these islands adds considerably to their local trade, and the merchant and shopkeeper benefit in a very marked degree by the presence of strangers from December to May, who are ever ready to purchase goods in what must of necessity appear to them a very cheap market. And what is lost in agriculture properly so called it is hoped may be made up by the new branch of trade referred to above, and by the amount of money expended in the islands during what has now become the regular winter tourist season for Americans and Canadians.

Criminal Statistics.

16. Four hundred and fourteen offences were reported to the police, against the previous year's return of 384; 392 persons were apprehended by the police or summoned before magistrates, showing an increase of 38 on the total of 1885. 245 were summarily convicted; 56 were discharged, and 75 cases were dismissed on their merits, whilst 16 were committed for trial in superior courts. Of the summary convictions, 100 were for offences against the person; 7 for prædial larceny; 10 for offences against property; and 128 for "other offences."

17. In the superior courts, four convictions were obtained on indictments for offences against the person, and seven on those for offences against property, whilst there were five acquittals in the higher tribunals. One case of manslaughter was proved and a conviction obtained, and one fell through.

Gaols and Prisoners.

18. One hundred and ninety seven persons were committed to gaol, of which number 122 were sent to the Hamilton and 75 to the St. George's Prison. 144 men, 32 women, and 51 juveniles were included in the above totals. 112 were sent for penal punishment, of whom 32 had been previously convicted once, 19 twice, and 47 three times or over. 29 were sentenced to over one, and under five, years' imprisonment, seven for more than three months and less than one year, and 56 for less than three months. The number of admissions to hospital was 34; the daily average sick in Hamilton gaol was one third and in St. George one and two thirds.

19. Although there is an increase in the number of criminal offences reported and dealt with, the Colony still keeps up its reputation for a marked absence of regular and systematic law breaking. The people are peaceable, well disposed, and law-

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abiding, and it is a matter of satisfaction that such is the case, for the machinery of the police establishment, the magisterial courts, and the prisons is far from adequate, and in case of any serious disturbance much difficulty would be experienced in taking preventive measures against breaches of the peace by the populace.

Public Institutions.

20. The report on the lunatic asylum shows that there were six admissions during the year: three males and three females.

The daily average was 33; of which 15 were men and 18 women; three patients were discharged, and two died. The cost of the establishment showed no increase on last year's figures; and the approximate cost of maintenance of each patient may be taken, including the amount expended by the Treasury on salaries of officers, at 44*l.* per annum.

Education.

21. The report of the Board of Education not being completed I am unable to give any particulars on this head.

Meteorological.

22. Towards the end of 1886 fresh instruments for taking weather observations were imported by order of the Governor in Council, and have been distributed amongst those who are most interested in this important subject. Although a proper system of tables of reports and returns has not as yet been thoroughly set in working order, it is to be hoped that the present year will show as complete observations on the weather as are possible in these islands.

23. I have added to this report a table which has been kindly furnished me by the librarian of readings taken by him in the public building in this town. This report shows that the mean temperature for the year was 73·2°, the mean height of the barometer 30·056°, and the rain fall 59·73 inches. In June 1·20 inches only of rain fell, whilst in July the unprecedented total of 17·05 inches is recorded.

24. Deputy Surgeon-General M. Waistell Cowan, R.N., has also furnished me with a meteorological table of readings taken at the Royal Naval Hospital, Ireland Island, which gives as a mean of temperature for the year the figures 72·28° taken in the verandah; 69·87° in the hall; and 69·85° in water.

The mean height of the barometer was 30·18°; and the observations of the wind direction were as follows: from south, 130 days (July and August each 21 days); north, 70 (March 16, October 12, and January 10); east, 52 (September 17 and April 11 days); calm, 52 (November 13); and westward, 38 days.

General.

25. The building of the new Government House was commenced during the year under the authority of the Board of

Public Works, and the supervision of a clerk of works sent from Edinburgh for the purpose by the architects of the work.

26. Considerable progress was also made in the rebuilding of Trinity Church, Hamilton, which was burnt down in 1884, and it is to be hoped that sufficient funds will be forthcoming to complete a building which, given the means, promises to be worthy of the object to which it has been dedicated.

27. To Mr. William Cox, one of the leading merchants of the Colony, I am indebted for some general remarks on trade and agriculture.

28. Mr. Cox observes that "Bermuda has five different sources from whence to derive employment for the people:—

"(1.) Work offered by Her Majesty's Government.

"(2.) Agriculture.

"(3.) Labour about wrecked and distressed vessels.

"(4.) Fishing.

"(5.) Trade with the American tourists.

"29. The employment in labour for the Imperial Government is a steady source of income for civilians, and is of great value.

"30. Agriculture does not seem to slacken either in its demand for labour or its promise of yield. Florida and California are often quoted by pessimists as threatening to destroy the trade in the few staples of Bermudian exports, but there will always be people in the United States who will consume the 70,000L or 80,000L of our Island's exports just because they happen to arrive in the right season.

"31. Distressed vessel work is on the wane. There is less distress in steam vessels than amongst sailing ships, and sailing vessels are largely giving way before steamships. The more rapid means of transport, and the more stringent efforts to prevent needless sacrifices in vessels, have rendered the Colony less desirable as a resort for masters of vessels who may be careless of the interests of their employers, and willing to incur expenses which might perhaps be avoided.

"32. Fishing helps to maintain many families, but whilst the supply of groupers, rock, and other coarse fish is apparently inexhaustible, measures might with advantage be taken to prevent hauling by nets the young of porgies, jack fish, amber fish, and snappers.

"33. At least 1,000 strangers from the United States and Canada visited Bermuda during 1886, and by them a considerable sum of money was expended in the Colony.

"34. Agriculture, although comparatively speaking depressed, may be reported on as not entirely unsuccessful. The year began with alarm about the young onion plants, which had developed blight, and of too little water from absence of rain, but in the long run the season furnished fair prices; prices which for tomatoes were so much better than those of previous years as to stimulate a larger attention towards this class of product. There can be but little doubt that the dwindling in the demand for tomatoes from year to year has been due to the

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“ inferior quality packed, a remedy for which would have been
 “ the appointment of an inspector armed with power to open
 “ and to condemn, if necessary, unsuitable shipments whenever
 “ found.”

Recapitulation of Returns.

35. The table which is prepared for the Board of Trade Statistical Abstract, and which has been accepted by that department, has been appended to this report.

Population.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
1885	-	-	7,325	7,712	15,037
1886	-	-	7,392	7,785	15,177

	1885.	1886.
Gross amount of public revenue - - -	£ 28,693	£ 30,518
Gross amount of public expenditure - -	29,096	28,432
Customs revenue - - - - -	23,236	24,782
Public debt - - - - -	5,284	7,214
Total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared -	Tons. 215,981	Tons. 281,528
Tonnage of British vessels entered and cleared -	183,442	233,883
Tonnage of foreign vessels entered and cleared -	32,539	38,944
Tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared -	57,450	62,004
Tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared -	158,531	219,524
Value of total imports - - - - -	£ 237,839	£ 279,190
Value of imports from the United Kingdom -	67,915	79,087
Value of total exports - - - - -	84,596	75,822
Value of total exports to the United Kingdom -	2,905	2,861

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CAVENDISH BOYLE,

Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
 Lieut.-General T. L. Gallwey, R.E.,
 Governor and Commander-
 in-Chief, Bermuda.

Temperature, Height of Barometer, and Rainfall, with Direction of Wind at the Public Buildings, Hamilton, for the Year 1886.

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	Observations at 10 a.m. 12 m. 3 p.m.										
	Mean Tem- pera- ture.	Mean Height of Bar- ometer.	Rainfall.	Direction of Wind.							
				N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
January -	66.5	29.974	4.35	3	6	4	12	3	21	9	20
February -	66.	30.060	6.63	3	1	6	14	8	13	8	17
March -	63.4	29.973	5.09	8	3	0	12	0	17	11	23
April -	68.8	30.029	1.26	0	6	23	15	4	10	9	8
May -	70.8	30.000	2.27	15	10	5	11	7	14	6	4
June -	76.8	30.061	1.20	9	7	13	8	6	23	8	4
July -	80.	30.098	17.05	4	6	7	11	7	39	2	5
August -	82.3	30.100	4.86	0	0	8	23	10	30	3	3
September -	82.	30.085	3.69	3	12	8	32	13	7	3	0
October -	78.	30.034	4.09	11	21	12	5	8	17	3	1
November -	73.	30.083	5.91	13	6	12	10	7	4	5	21
December -	71.	30.172	3.33	4	13	5	10	8	14	3	15
Year -	73.2	30.066	59.73	73	91	103	163	81	209	70	126

HELIGOLAND.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 20.

Governor J. T. N. O'BRIEN, C.M.G., to the Right Hon.
SIR H. T. HOLLAND, Bart. G.C.M.G., M.P.

SIR,

Heligoland, March 9, 1887.

In forwarding the accompanying Blue Book returns of this Colony for the past year, I am happy to be able to report that the prosperity of the island has increased; for the bathing season, on which the existence of the inhabitants almost entirely depends, was an exceptionally good one, the number (26) of regular steamers plying weekly between this and the continent in the height of the season having raised the total of our visitors to 8,334, an excess of 994 over the previous year, exclusive of some 4,000 to 5,000 excursionists, whose stay did not exceed 24 hours, the consequence being that Heligoland which in 1881 was crushed by, for it, a heavy and steadily augmenting debt, now for the first time, I believe, since it has been under the British flag, has been enable to free itself from its liabilities.

Political

HELGOLAND.

The only event of importance in 1886 under this head was a visit paid to the island by their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who landed for a couple of hours in the early spring, when unfortunately the season had not commenced, and Government House was under repair and uninhabited, so the island I fear did not appear to advantage, though the islanders much appreciated the honour of the visit.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The gross revenue for 1886 amounted to 11,715*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*; deducting from this the imperial grant in aid of 2,500*l.*, plus profit on exchange 35*l.* 2*s.*, and an extraordinary receipt for salvage of 505*l.*, the nett revenue came to 8,675*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, while the gross expenditure of 11,786*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* after making a deduction of the above sums, which were devoted to clearing off part of the island debt, gives a total of 8,746*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* as the expenditure of the Colony from normal local sources during the past twelve months.

Comparison of Revenue and Expenditure.

From the gradual introduction of a proper system of audit and accounts, from the suppression of abuses, the licensing of trades, stricter collection of revenue, and the establishment of salutary checks, both in details of receipts and expenditure, but above all from the increasing popularity of the island as a bathing and health resort, together with the greater facilities of access now existing, our revenue under all heads, especially those affected by the bathing season, again shows an increase, an increase, however, which at first sight would appear not to be in proportion with that of the number of visitors, which discrepancy is accounted for by the fact that since branch steamers run between this and the other North Sea bathing places Heligoland becomes included in circular tours and similar excursions, so that the average stay of our guests is much less than formerly, besides which with such constant communication business men can now run over from Hamburg or Bremen, leave their families and return two or three times during their stay with little or no inconvenience, which was impossible formerly, thus adding to the number of our bathing guests.

If in the past year the expenditure is also higher than in the previous one, it is consequent on the greater requirements of our visitors, on a larger sum being devoted to clear off our debt, and that on my seeing that our increased resources enabled me to spend more money, I carried out several urgently needed works of utility.

Public Works.

The principal flight of wooden steps leading from the lower to the upper town have been replaced by others of solid material. The bulwark which protects the lower town from the sea has

been almost entirely renewed, the pier was patched up so as to last for the year, an expensive repair. Works for the protection of Sandy Island were constructed with satisfactory results, and a wire fence was put along the greater part of the upper cliff to prevent accidents, which services represent the chief works of importance executed in 1886, irrespective of repairs to streets and public buildings.

HELGOLAND.

Legislation.

Three ordinances were enacted by me during the past twelve months, two at the instigation of Her Majesty's Government, viz:—

No. 1 of 1886. To prohibit the sale of spirits on board of Her Majesty's ships, and No. 2 of 1886 (which in its then shape has not been confirmed), to protect the Post Office and render punishable the sale, manufacture, &c. of spurious stamps, whether local or belonging to other countries. The third law, No. 3 of 1886, was a much needed ordinance, and is the first sanitary law enacted in this Colony.

Civil Service, Pensions, &c.

There have been no mutations in the service or pensions granted during the year.

Government House has been repaired; the furniture, 24 or more years old, is, by being re-covered when required and being properly attended to, serviceable; the Governor has, however, hitherto been obliged to supply glass, crockery, plate, cutlery, &c., which are needed to place the Colony on a par with other Governments (*vide* Chapter IX., Sec. II., Coln. Regl.).

Population.

There is a slight increase in the number of the inhabitants, the total of which emigration keeps almost stationary. The number of deaths, viz., 33, or 31 when reduced by one suicide and by the death of a visitor during the season, continues to prove by the longevity of the inhabitants the healthiness of Heligoland, as the average length of life is 61 years, for out of the above 31, 22 died at advanced ages between 60 and 90.

Post Office.

As the progress of the Colony, especially in the absence of banks, which throws so much more money order business on this Department, can be better judged by postal statistics than by any other data at my disposal, I would beg to draw attention to the following figures, those for 1881 representing the work of that office prior to my assuming charge (for though sworn in in October 1881 I did not virtually begin my administration till January 1882), while those for the subsequent years show the gradual rise that has since taken place in what I hope may be considered the prosperity of Heligoland, due greatly to the opening of the railway to our nearest port, Cuxhaven.

HELGOLAND.

Received in Heligoland.

Year.	Number of				Number of Letters of Value declared.	Amount in Letters of Value declared.	Number of Post Money Orders.	Amount of Post Money Orders.
	Letters.	Post Cards.	Book Post.	Parcels.				
1881 - -	26,251	3,338	9,976	2,253	244	£ 5,751	547	£ 2,581
1882 - -	32,338	5,664	15,463	2,823	261	7,360	503	2,331
1883 - -	35,528	6,734	15,324	2,963	321	7,311	668	2,906
1884 - -	38,013	8,006	16,079	3,713	287	7,152	594	2,633
1885 - -	39,900	8,267	17,099	3,810	288	8,266	688	2,783
1886 - -	43,086	8,960	17,333	3,963	314	8,685	704	2,935

Despatched from Heligoland.

Year.	Number of				Number of Letters of Value declared.	Amount of Letters of Value declared.	Number of Post Money Orders.	Amount of Post Money Orders.
	Letters.	Post Cards.	Book Post.	Parcels.				
1881 - -	23,069	13,522	363	1,279	138	£ 6,970	1,664	£ 9,306
1882 - -	29,549	18,837	781	1,465	173	8,455	1,647	9,128
1883 - -	32,855	21,403	894	1,656	284	9,917	1,979	9,731
1884 - -	35,303	23,410	805	2,043	294	12,316	2,245	10,637
1885 - -	33,841	23,525	1,474	2,330	270	12,277	2,307	10,790
1886 - -	37,550	30,074	1,421	2,414	248	13,439	2,314	10,838

Postal Savings Bank.

When, under Ordinance No. 5 of 1883, I, on the 1st of July of that year, started this institution it was looked upon by these suspicious and peculiar people as a trap set to find out their means, so as to increase taxation; hence the sum first shown in the annexed return represents the deposits of certain local funds and charities, together with those of not more than two or three adults, the remainder of the 304 depositors being children to whom a card with a stamp on it was given, which on being filled up to the value of a mark was received as a first deposit so as to open an account; this I am happy to say has succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations, for while the several fund monies have remained somewhat stationary, the number of depositors has doubled (including several children who have in the meanwhile reached to man's estate), and in addition a considerable increase has taken place in the number of adults placing money in the bank. Thus the amount in deposit has more than quadrupled, showing, I am happy to say, that habits of thrift and economy are gaining such ground as to lead me to hope that in a few years ready money transactions may take the place of the hand to mouth and universal system of credit which

has always existed and which is one of the banes of the Colony ; HELGOLAND.
it is, however, very difficult to expect to get anything like progress
out of a Helgolander.

*Progress of the Postal Savings Bank from July 1st 1883 to
December 31st 1886.*

Year.	Number of Deposits.	Total Amount of Deposits.	Number of Withdrawals.	Total Amount of Withdrawals.	Interests credited on Deposits.	Number of Accounts opened.	Number of Accounts closed.	Number of Accounts remaining open.	Total Amount standing to Credit, inclusive of Interest.
		Ms. pf.		Ms. pf.	Ms. pf.				Ms. pf.
1883 - -	304	3,817 0	3	13 0	27 30	112	3	109	3,831 30
1884 - -	253	6,418 0	24	979 20	149 80	38	14	133	9,419 90
1885 - -	196	5,827 75	45	5,787 90	220 96	31	18	146	9,680 70
1886 - -	183	7,378 36	47	3,825 20	263 55	23	16	153	13,398 40

Education.

English, which up to January 1884 was greatly neglected, is now making good progress under a competent master, so that, encouraged by prizes which I offer yearly from my private purse, now no child leaves school who cannot read, write, and speak our language intelligibly, while some have acquired it in a remarkable degree. Our school buildings, originally built by England, though good in themselves are objectionable ; the classes, as will be seen, are very large, too much so for the class rooms, so that with insufficient cubic space they are seriously defective on hygienic grounds, while the number of children is too great for proper supervision and tuition ; moreover instruction proper for females, and the separation of the boys from the girls, especially in the higher classes, is from a moral point of view essential ; all steps however towards remedying these grave defects have till this year, from the ever present want of funds, been impossible ; in 1886 however a small beginning has been made, as a site adjacent to our school house has been purchased in the hope that with better days the Colony will be in a position, as soon as its more needed wants have been supplied, to incur the necessary outlay both for a new building and a proper female teacher.

Fisheries.

The spring fishing of 1886 was good, but that of the winter was a complete failure, for instead of as usual going out from 20 to 25 days, from October to 31st December, our fleet could only fish once up to that latter date, though they might have done so perhaps two or three times oftener were it not that the ease with which money is made during the season has its enervating effect on a population singularly wanting in energy, probably through the results of isolation and the want of competition.

HELGOLAND.

Crime.

There has been no serious local crime necessitating a trial by the Court of Sessions during the year, the work of that court being confined to trials of civil cases, attempts at smuggling, &c., &c., while in the Magistrate's or lower Court nothing has occurred that could not be met by the infliction of a small fine or a few days confinement in our prison cells.

Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

The hospital is only used in cases of infectious diseases, of which there have been none, and for sailors or others having no fixed domicile, the Heligolanders being treated at home. I am sorry to say as regards lunatics that as we have two absolutely mad people (who are looked after by their relatives, one being partly maintained at the public expense) a proper asylum would appear to be very desirable, or better still the affiliation of this island to some such institution elsewhere, as, doubtless owing to the effect of intermarriage for generations in so small a community, we have some 40 unfortunates who are more or less mentally afflicted, some of whom might at any moment require to be placed under restraint.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

No such public institutions exist, and till last year no private attempt had been made in this direction, till last winter, when seeing the want of some means of affording rational amusement for our fishermen and working classes, I, aided by subscriptions and donations from friends and visitors, started a public reading room and library, so that now with 600 volumes and several papers, illustrated and others, both in English and German, in a well lighted and heated room, some 40 to 60 of our people assemble nightly, and thus obtain in entertainment instruction with an insight into the doings of the outer world, which is sadly needed here. I am therefore in hopes that with time this institution may wean many from the attractions of the drink shops and pave the way to more enlightened and enlarged ideas, by removing the many prejudices peculiar to such an old fashioned race, and perhaps even it may eventually be the means of evoking a feeling of patriotism and progress in place of the spirit of dogged opposition to every modern improvement or reform now so characteristic of the Heligolanders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. O'BRIEN, Lt.-Col.,
Governor.

To the Right Hon. Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., M.P.

&c.

&c.

&c.

GOLD COAST.

No. 21.

GOLD COAST.

The Right Hon. EDWARD STANHOPE, M.P., to Governor
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G.*

SIR,

Downing Street, October 20, 1886.

I HAVE had under consideration your Despatch of the 9th of August last,* transmitting the sanitary reports of the Gold Coast Colony for the Year 1885.

These reports contain matter of much interest and reflect credit upon Dr. McCarthy and the medical staff of the Colony. It is, however, somewhat disadvantageous to receive them so long after the period to which they relate, and I shall be glad to receive regularly the shorter quarterly reports referred to in my predecessor's Despatch of the 21st of July last. I have read with great concern the description of the extremely unsatisfactory sanitary condition of the different stations. Almost without exception they appear still to be deficient in the most ordinary sanitary requirements. Except at Axim and Danoe there is a lamentable insufficiency of water reservoirs. Additional latrines appear to be required at every station. Quittah is without a decent hospital and I understand that more dispensaries are much needed. Even at the capital, Accra, there seems to be great scarcity of water, and quite inadequate sanitary arrangements, while such urgent wants as a cemetery and the destruction of the cactus have still to be postponed.

I am aware that you are fully conscious of the need for attention to these matters, and I notice that you have already taken action wherever possible, in accordance with the recommendations of your medical advisers. I fully appreciate also the difficulties under which the Government labours at the Gold Coast, and I feel sure that you have already done all you can in the matter.

Nevertheless, I cannot refrain from observing that it is not worthy of a civilised Government to leave such evils unredressed while receiving a large annual surplus revenue. The Public Works Department should make a special effort to carry out such of these recommendations as are endorsed by you during the coming year. In order to assist them in this work I have authorised the Crown Agents to send out another foreman of works at once, and I shall be prepared to approve the appointment of a second if you think the sanitary works in question cannot otherwise be completed within the year.

It appears, indeed, as if there could be found continuous employment for one foreman of works at each station. At present

* No. 5.

GOLD COAST. there are usually only four or five in the Colony at one time. I request that you will consider whether it would not be well to place one foreman permanently at each station where works are required, and let him carry out, one after another, the whole of the works there called for.

You will gather that I am specially anxious that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs should be put a stop to at once. The Colony has a considerable sum of money available for such services, and I trust that the next (quarterly) reports will show that good progress has been made, and that those for 1887 will describe a different state of things, proving that well directed and continuous efforts have been kept up to cope with the grave evils which have often formed the subject of reports and despatches, and are now still more fully exposed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD STANHOPE.

Governor Griffith.

GOLD COAST.

No. 22.

The Right Hon. Sir H. T. HOLLAND, Bart., G.C.M.G. M.P.,
to Governor W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G.

Downing Street,

SIR,

February 11, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of 7th ultimo*, forwarding the Colonial Secretary's report on the Blue Book of the Gold Coast Colony for 1884, with an explanation of the delay which has occurred in its transmission.

I cannot but regret this delay, as it, of course, considerably affects the value of the report.

This office has taken frequent opportunities of impressing upon the Governors of Colonies the importance of early transmission of the Blue Books, and the reports which should accompany them, and the publication of periodical returns of old date reflects discredit on the Colonial Governments which fail to send them home with punctuality.

I have, &c.

Governor Griffith.

(Signed) H. T. HOLLAND.

* No. 1.

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P A P E R S

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1885 AND 1886.

(In continuation, of [C.-5071.] of June 1887.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1887.



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LAGOS.

LAGOS.

No 1

Governor ALFRED MOLONEY to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Lagos,
August 16, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a report on the Blue Book for 1885 of this Colony by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. F. Evans, C.M.G.

Lagos was only erected into a separate colony on the 1st January 1886, and for the previous year its Blue Book was supplied on the 2nd April 1886 to the Gold Coast Colony, of which up to the end of 1885 it formed part.

The failure on the part of the Gold Coast to render separately the Blue Book for 1885 of Lagos has necessitated present rendition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.

Sir Henry T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

&c.

&c.

&c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF LAGOS FOR THE YEAR 1885.

Taxes and Duties.

There was no alteration during the year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue was the largest ever collected by the Government in Lagos. It amounted to 63,504*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* and was 4,115*l.* more than the next largest on record, that of the year 1877, which was 59,390*l.* The expenditure is given as 40,313*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, but this represents the local disbursements only and does not include the expenses incurred by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, the account of which was kept at Accra on the Gold Coast.

Of the revenue, 56,108*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* was received from customs, 3,337*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* from wharfage, and 1,205*l.* from liquor licenses.

o 51507. D. 85.

A 2

LAGOS.

Of the expenditure recorded 23,528*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* was for the civil establishment, 5,928*l.* 2*s.* for feeding, clothing, &c. prisoners, 1,267*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* for transport, and 1,757*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* for aborigines.

Tables showing the revenue and expenditure under the several heads of receipt and disbursement in 1884 and 1885 are given below.

Revenue.

Heads of Receipt.	1884.	1885.	Increase or Decrease, 1885.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Customs	£ 50,755	£ 56,108	£ 5,353	—
Sale of Government property	51	36	—	15
Land sales	29	62	33	—
Land Revenue	2	2	—	—
Postage	371	373	2	—
Rent, exclusive of lands	234	213	—	21
Licenses	1,469	1,492	23	—
Fees of office	240	226	—	14
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court	716	681	—	35
Miscellaneous	3,964	4,040	185	—
Reimbursements in aid	190	259	69	—
Interest on investments	—	—	—	—
Lighthouse dues	—	—	—	—
Overpayments refunded	11	4	—	7
Special receipts	—	—	—	—
	57,932	63,505	5,665	92
Net increase	—	—	5,573	—

Expenditure.

Heads of Disbursement.	1884.	1885.	Increase or Decrease, 1885.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Establishments	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ —
Salaries, fixed	21,237	20,839	398	—
Do, provisional and temporary	1,142	624	—	518
Allowances	1,219	1,960	711	—
Contingencies	50	136	86	—
<i>Services (exclusive of establishments).</i>				
Governor	75	80	5	—
Executive council	—	—	—	—

LAGOS.

Heads of Disbursement.	1884.	1885.	Increase or Decrease, 1885.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Customs and Treasury	4,447	2,544	—	1,903
Post Office	197	57	—	140
Public works and survey	2,300	5,928	3,508	—
Marine	837	802	—	35
Judicial	32	40	8	—
Ecclesiastical	69	—	—	—
Charitable allowances	20	3	—	17
Educational	738	624	—	114
Constabulary	515	356	—	153
Gaols	1,581	1,300	—	281
Medical	1,029	848	—	181
Sanitary	191	194	3	—
Rent	284	341	77	—
Transport	1,334	1,308	—	26
Aborigines	1,537	1,757	230	—
Miscellaneous	2,202	405	—	1,797
Pensions and gratuities	1,349	148	—	201
Special	2,179	—	—	—
	44,684	40,314	5,086	5,411
Net increase	—	—	—	325

Public Debt.

There was no public debt.

Military Expenditure.

The Imperial troops were removed from Lagos in 1870. The Settlement was protected during the year by an armed constabulary force of 411 officers and men, maintained at a cost of 10,125*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*

Public Works.

The repairs to public buildings cost 2,074*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, but this included many desirable alterations and improvements in the Prison and Court House; 1,732*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* was expended in the construction of a bridge across Five Cowrie Creek. There were no other works of much importance undertaken.

LAGOS.*Legislation.*

Six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council on the Gold Coast; of these only the four following affected Lagos, namely:—

No. 1.—For the payment of travelling expenses.

No. 3.—For the removal of insane persons to Sierra Leone.

No. 5.—To provide for the service of the Gold Coast Colony (of which Lagos then formed a part).

No. 6.—To regulate payment of rent for gunpowder stored in Government magazines.

Civil Establishment.

The administration of the Settlement was conducted by the under-mentioned officers as “deputies for the Governor and Commander-in-Chief” of the Colony, namely, Captain Knapp Barrow, C.M.G., to 28th February; Lieutenant-Governor W. Brandford Griffith, C.M.G., 1st March to 5th May; Mr. F. Evans, C.M.G., from 11th May to end of the year.

Secretariat.

There was no secretary in 1885, but the clerks in the Department were placed under the superintendence of the following constabulary officers, namely, Assistant Inspector Cockeram to 30th August, Assistant Inspector Grissell to December 31st.

In the Customs and Treasury Mr. E. G. Woolhouse was appointed to be Assistant Collector and Treasurer vice Mr. Pike transferred to the Gold Coast; in the Public Works Department a European Colonial Surveyor (Mr. G. H. Ross) was appointed; in the Post Office, Mr. G. J. Cole was appointed Postmaster. There were no other changes of importance.

Education.

There were in 1885, it is estimated, about 17,000 children in and around Lagos, that is to say, 13,000 in and around the town and 4,000 in the three districts; of these 5,000 are said to have been Christians, 3,000 Mahommedans, and 9,000 pagans. The schools of the Christian denominations were attended by about 2,600 children (2,562).

The following statistics were furnished by the principals of the several schools :—

LAGOS.

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.		Total.
		Females.	Males.	
Church of England - - - -	19	480	834	1,314
Wesleyan - - - - -	8	195	382	547
Roman Catholic - - - -	4	268	232	495
Baptist - - - - -	1	83	123	206
Total - - - - -	—	—	—	2,562

There were 48 Mahommedan schools, at each of which there was an average attendance of about 20 scholars. These schools were conducted by aluphas or priests, who taught little, if anything, beyond the Koran and tenets of the Mahommedan religion.

Imports.

There gross value of the imports was 542,564*l.*, or an increase of 4,343*l.* over 1884 (538,221*l.*); 292,533*l.* came from the United Kingdom, 4,057*l.* from the British Colonies (Sierra Leone 1,064*l.*, Gold Coast 2,992*l.*), and 245,974*l.* from foreign countries, among which Germany takes the lead with 187,669*l.*, the Brazils come next with 19,238*l.*, while France is credited with 9,134*l.* only, The River Niger, whence imports valued at 18,808*l.* were obtained, is classed as a foreign country.

The imports from the United Kingdom show a decrease in value as compared with 1884 of 45,785*l.*, those from Germany show an increase of 36,418*l.*

In 1871 the United Kingdom gave us 299,670*l.* and Germany only 37,597*l.* Since that date, while the imports from the former country rose in 1877 as high as 397,457*l.* and fell in (1881) as low as 160,487*l.*, to rise again to their present value, those of the latter have gradually risen year by year.

Of the specific customs duty collected (44,929*l.*) Germany gave us 35,590*l.* and of this no less than 33,629*l.* was obtained from spirits (27,446*l.* from geneva, 6,183*l.* from rum). To the ad valorem duty (11,180*l.*) the United Kingdom was the principal contributor. From it 9,808*l.* was collected, 7,462*l.* of this being the duty paid upon cotton goods. Haberdashery gave 319*l.*, hardware 324*l.*, earthenware 203*l.*, provisions 484*l.*, silk goods 116*l.*, and other articles 900*l.* It will be seen, therefore, that Germany contributed about five sixths of the specific duty and the United Kingdom about seven eighths of the ad valorem duty.

LAGOS.

Tables showing the quantities and value of the principal articles of import and whence they came in 1884 and 1885 are given below :—

Statements showing Quantities and Value of Principal Articles of Import, 1884 and 1885.

Articles.	1884.	1885.	1885.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods - - £	225,112	193,782	—	31,330
Cowries - - {	Cwts. 13,598	13,209	—	389
	£ 7,189	6,745	—	444
Geneva - - {	Galls. 1,105,698	1,369,912	264,214	—
	£ 102,281	122,873	2,059	—
Guns - - {	No. 5,947	12,040	6,093	—
	£ 2,364	5,988	3,624	—
Gunpowder - - {	Barrels 3,422	1,805	—	1,617
	£ 5,965	2,940	—	3,025
Haberdashery - - £	7,654	9,262	1,608	—
Hardware - - £	11,192	15,501	4,309	—
Rum - - {	Galls. 831,122	407,884	76,762	—
	£ 22,375	24,661	2,286	—
Salt - - {	Cwts. 77,100	87,140	10,040	—
	£ 6,615	7,753	1,138	—
Shooks - - {	Bundles 9,038	12,126	3,088	—
	£ 8,848	11,826	2,978	—
Spirits (other than gin and rum) - - {	Galls. 1,661	3,438	1,777	—
	£ 906	1,373	467	—
Tobacco - - {	Lbs. 1,261,623	1,122,291	—	139,332
	£ 28,139	28,229	90	—
Provisions, including ale and porter, &c., aerated waters, &c. - - £	15,278	21,263	5,985	—
Other articles - - £	54,486	71,501	17,015	—
Total - - £	498,404	523,627	60,092	34,799
Specie - - £	39,817	18,867	—	20,950
Total - - £	538,221	542,564	60,092	55,749
Net increase		-	4,343	

*Total Value of Imports (including Bullion and Specie) into Lagos, distinguishing Principal Countries, 1884 and 1885.*Lagos.

Countries.	1884.	1885.	1885.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
United Kingdom - - -	£ 388,318	£ 292,533	£ —	£ 45,785
British Possessions—				
Gambia - } Windward	—	1	1	—
Sierra Leone } Coast of	495	1,064	569	—
Gold Coast - } Africa	3,951	2,992	—	959
Benin - } Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—
River Niger - } of Africa	2,800	18,808	16,508	—
Germany - - -	151,250	187,669	36,419	—
France - - -	6,138	9,134	3,006	—
Mozambique - - -	1,839	27	—	1,812
Zanzibar - - -	4,807	3,997	—	810
Porto Novo - - -	988	1,813	825	—
Windward Coast of Africa -	650	999	349	—
Leeward do. - - -	4,655	1,453	—	3,202
United States - - -	5,862	1,994	—	3,868
Brazils - - -	16,978	19,238	2,260	—
Other Countries - - -	—	842	842	—
Total - - -	538,221	542,564	60,779	56,486
Net increase	-	-	4,343	

Exports.

The exports were valued at 614,181*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* and were less than the previous year by 58,233*l.* The falling off was chiefly in palm kernels (45,054*l.*). The export of palm oil decreased also by 7,148*l.*, and raw cotton by 5,657*l.*

Germany took the largest share of the exports, 210,850*l.*, the United Kingdom came next with 194,607*l.*, but both exhibited a considerable falling off as compared with 1884, the former showing a decrease of 72,877*l.*, and the latter of 55,187.

Germany received less palm kernels (62,792*l.*) and palm oil (10,948*l.*) and the United Kingdom, which appears to appropriate nearly all the raw cotton, received less of this article (5,660*l.*), as also less palm kernels (30,976*l.*) and palm oil (18,684*l.*).

There was a very large and marked increase in the exports to France, 87,617*l.*, in 1885 as against 18,020*l.* in 1884 and 52,946*l.* in 1883.

They consisted almost entirely of palm oil (37,922*l.*) and palm kernels (49,496*l.*).

LAGOS.

The following tables show the quantities and value of the principal articles of export and the countries to which they were sent in 1884 and 1885:—

Statement showing Quantities and Value of Principal Articles of Export in 1884 and 1885.

Articles.	1884.	1885.	1885.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Produce of the Colony.</i>				
Beniseed - {	Tons 166	25	—	141
	£ 1,307	229	—	1,141
Cotton (Raw) - {	Lbs. 530,414	278,850	—	251,564
	£ 11,454	5,797	—	5,657
Country cloths - {	£ 6,822	10,748	3,921	—
Ivory - {	Lbs. 4,000	5,915	1,915	—
	£ 1,090	1,806	716	—
Kola nuts - {	£ 1,391	1,550	159	—
Palm kernels - {	Tons 29,773	30,805	1,032	—
	£ 327,347	282,293	—	45,054
Palm oil - {	Galls. 2,382,656	2,657,775	275,119	—
	£ 225,558	218,410	—	7,148
Other articles - {	£ 1,466	3,246	1,780	—
	£ 576,498	524,074	6,576	59,000
British and foreign produce -	95,916	90,107	—	5,809
Total - £	672,414	614,181	6,576	64,809
Net decrease			-	58,233

Total Value of Exports (including Bullion and Specie) from Lagos, distinguishing Principal Countries, 1884 and 1885.

Countries.		1884.	1885.	1885.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
United Kingdom	-	£ 249,794	£ 194,607	£ —	£ 55,187
British Possessions—					
Gambia	- { Windward	5	35	30	—
Sierra Leone	- { Coast of	1,615	2,486	871	—
Gold Coast	- { Africa	5,021	7,289	2,268	—
Benin	- { Leeward Coast	—	9	9	—
River Niger	- { of Africa	1,736	4,573	2,837	—
Germany	-	283,727	210,850	—	72,877
France	-	18,020	87,617	69,597	—
Porto Novo	-	81,410	82,689	1,279	—
Windward Coast of Africa	-	958	2,374	1,416	—
Leeward do.	-	12,886	231	—	12,605
United States	-	3,324	3,783	459	—
Brazils	-	13,967	10,764	—	3,203
Other countries	-	1	6,874	6,873	—
Total	-	672,414	614,181	85,639	143,872
Net decrease				-	58,233

The British and foreign produce consisted mainly of cotton goods (18,510*l.*), gin (33,089*l.*), rum (9,802*l.*), tobacco (12,453*l.*).

Of the 90,107*l.* under this head no less than 81,816*l.* went to Porto Novo, drawbacks amounting to 2,516*l.* having been paid by Lagos on this sum.

A list of the articles sent to Porto Novo and of their value is given hereunder :—

	£
Cotton goods - - - -	16,543
Cowries - - - -	558
Geneva - - - -	33,059
Guns - - - -	1,856
Rum - - - -	9,802
Salt - - - -	1,680
Tobacco - - - -	12,423
Other Articles - - - -	6,395
	<hr/>
	81,816
	<hr/>

Shipping.

The following tables give the nationality of vessels entered and cleared at Lagos in 1885 as compared with 1884 :—

Vessels Entered.

Nationality of Vessels.	1884.			1885.		
	Tonnage.			Tonnage.		
	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.
British - - - -	586	150,054	150,640	1,233	175,508	176,801
German - - - -	5,416	16,293	21,709	6,298	19,118	25,411
French - - - -	1,710	—	1,710	1,817	—	1,817
Portuguese - - -	436	—	436	218	—	218
Belgian - - - -	232	—	232	—	—	—
Brazilian - - - -	400	—	400	1,850	837	2,687
Danish - - - -	998	—	998	184	—	184
Italian - - - -	2,258	—	2,258	5,366	—	5,366
American - - - -	369	—	369	969	—	969
Grecian - - - -	225	—	225	—	—	—
Norwegian - - -	818	—	818	450	—	450
Russian - - - -	—	—	—	279	—	279

LAGOS.

Vessels cleared.

Nationality of Vessels.	1884.			1885.		
	Tonnage.			Tonnage.		
	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.
British	203	157,406	157,789	1,526	181,835	183,361
German	5,739	17,225	22,964	5,548	18,462	24,005
French	1,408	—	1,408	1,515	—	1,515
Portuguese	436	—	436	218	—	218
Belgian	232	—	232	—	—	—
Brazilian	553	—	553	1,850	810	2,660
Danish	846	—	846	184	—	184
Italian	1,898	—	1,898	5,366	—	5,366
American	369	—	369	989	—	989
Grecian	225	—	225	—	—	—
Norwegian	876	—	876	450	—	450
Turkish	327	—	327	—	—	—
Russian	—	—	—	—	—	—

Gaols and Prisoners.

The total number of prisoners admitted was 228 (including 4 women and 2 juveniles). Of these 67 had been previously convicted.

The sanitary state of the prison was good, the daily average sick being six as against nine in the previous year. There were within the prison walls two deaths from natural causes and five executions.

The escape of prisoners while employed beyond the gaol was reduced from 10 in 1883 and 8 in 1884 to 5 in 1885.

The total cost of the prison, including 626*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* for improvements, was 2,842*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*

During the year many long and much needed improvements were effected. The cells were lighted and better ventilated. A workshed, used on Sundays for the performance of Divine Service, was erected, an industrial system was introduced and earnings accounted for. A brick wall around the "Female Prison" was built by prison labour to more effectually separate its inmates from the males. Each prisoner became known by a number only instead of by name, men sentenced to more than five years' imprisonment were not permitted to take part in out-door labour, and altogether there was stricter discipline and a more rigid adherence to the prison rules than formerly.

From the 1st August, when an account was first kept, the earnings of the prisoners were as follows:—

LAGOS.

Indoor Labour.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bricklaying - -	174	5	6			
Carpentering - -	49	6	4			
Tailoring - -	40	13	4			
Mat making - -	32	8	7			
Basket making - -	27	5	0			
Screen making - -	28	1	0			
Miscellaneous - -	89	7	0			
	<hr/>			441	6	9

Outdoor Labour.

Public works - -	22	17	10			
Roads, streets, and bridges - -	16	12	5			
Sanitary - -	20	15	0			
Transport - -	45	17	1			
Miscellaneous - -	29	11	2			
	<hr/>			125	13	6
				<hr/>		
				577	0	3
				<hr/> <hr/>		

Criminal Statistics.

From the following comparative table, showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals, it will be observed that although there was a marked decrease in the number of convictions for offences against the person, there was a large increase in offences against property.

The number of offences reported to the police seems unusually large, but its increase is due to the fact that a more accurate record was kept in 1885 than in previous years.

Comparative Table showing the number of Offences, Apprehensions, Convictions, and Acquittals for the last Four Years.

—	1885.	1884.	1883.	1882.
The number of offences reported to the police - - - -	648	195	223	233
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates - - - -	933	794	576	804
The number of summary convictions:				
1. For offences against the person - -	142	230	167	240
2. For cattle stealing and arson - -	5	7	10	10
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - -	107	47	23	30
4. For other offences - -	91	72	18	27

LAGOS.

	1885.	1884.	1883.	1882.
The number of convictions in the superior courts:				
1. For offences against the person -	28	15	2	7
2. For cattle stealing and arson -	—	1	4	4
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny -	24	13	19	25
4. For other offences -	5	29	26	11
The number of persons acquitted :				
1. In the inferior courts -	348	342	278	145
2. In the superior courts -	30	21	20	29

Hospital.

In 1885 there were 548 persons, of whom 94 were Europeans, admitted into hospital as against 364, of whom 20 were Europeans, in 1884.

There were also 5,570 persons treated as out-patients in 1885 as against 7,394 in 1884.

An increase of in-patients and a decrease of out-patients in 1885.

The increase in the numbers of European in-patients in 1885 is remarkable. Among them there were six deaths—malarious fever three, dysentery one, tetanus one, cerebral meningitis one, as against two (diarrhoea one, pneumonia one) in 1884.

Of the native in-patients 37 died in 1885 as against 22 in 1884.

Among the Europeans the principal diseases treated in the year 1885 were malarious fever (69), sunstroke, catarrh of stomach or bowels, hepatitis, dysentery, &c., &c.; and among the natives there were syphilis (81), pulmonary (32), diarrhoea (36), dysentery (14), malarious fevers (22), skin and cellular tissue (51), and parasitic (57). There were 79 cases of injuries.

The quality of the water supplied to the patients is said to be very bad, but two large tanks, each to contain 42,000 gallons of rain-water, have recently been erected within the grounds of the hospital.

Small-pox Hospital.

There was a very marked decrease in the number of cases of small-pox in 1885, the number being 100, of whom 20 (or 20 per cent.) died as against 172, of whom 41 (or 23·83 per cent.) died in 1884.

This decrease is attributable to the improved system of vaccination inaugurated during the year by the Colonial Surgeon (Dr. Grant), to whom much credit is due.

I may mention there were only two cases of small-pox in 1886, and that so far there have been none this year.

In 1885 there were 5,262 persons vaccinated, 1,315 successfully, 649 unsuccessfully; the remainder did not return for examination after the operation.

It is stated there were 12,127 successful cases of vaccination in 1884, but these figures are, I regret to say, utterly unreliable.

(Signed) FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

LAGOS.

Lagos, June 1, 1887.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA.

No. 2.

Governor Sir F. NAPIER BROOME to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Perth,

June 2, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, six copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the past year, together with copy of the usual report thereon by the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. M. Fraser, C.M.G.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. NAPIER BROOME.

The Right Hon.

Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

&c.

&c.

&c.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK for 1886.

From the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

Colonial Secretary's Office Perth,

May 28, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, a report on the Blue Book of Western Australia for the year 1886.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MALCOLM FRASER,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency

Sir F. Napier Broome, K.C.M.G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

REPORT.

1.—*Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.*

The statute laws under which the public revenue is obtained remained unaltered, and other sources of supply continued on same conditions as in previous year.

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA.

2.—*Revenue.*

The revenue for 1886 amounted to 388,564*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; the principal increases were in customs and railway receipts, and the total increase for the year was 65,350*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* over 1885.

Expenditure.

394,675*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* was expended; of this sum 85,528*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* went for works, buildings, roads, bridges, and miscellaneous services, and 59,780*l.* for interest on loans for public works. The opening up of the Kimberley district and goldfields caused very considerable special expenditure.

The credit balance at the end of 1886 was 83,418*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; thus, after meeting all extraordinary charges, 6,111*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* was expended over actual receipts for the year, which consequently reduced the balance by that amount.

3.—*Military Expenditure.*

Total expenditure on account of volunteer department was 3,373*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* The actual strength was 24 officers and 564 men; this total shows two officers less, but a real increase in the force of 10 of all ranks over 1885

4.—*Public Debt.*

The total indebtedness of the Colony was 1,286,000*l.*, being a reduction of 4,000*l.* from sinking fund on original debt of 1,290,000*l.* 59,780*l.* was paid out of general revenue to meet interest and sinking fund for the year.

5.—*Public Works, Railways, and Roads.*

Extensive works were pushed on with energy throughout the year, in almost every settlement throughout the Colony. The expenditure on account of these amounted to about 134,000*l.* from loans; and 55,733*l.* from revenue for works, buildings, roads, and bridges. Of this latter sum 15,410*l.* was expended by District Roads, Boards, and Municipal Councils from grants.

Railways constructed by Government and opened for traffic, about 151½ miles.

Railways in course of construction by Government, nearly 55 miles.

Railways under contracts to be paid for by land grants, about 534 miles.

Railways Timber Company's lines, about 51 miles.

6.—*Population.*

The estimated population on 31st December 1886, allowing for deaths, was 39,584 ; but no returns were received from the Gascoyne and Wyndham, in which districts it is calculated there was an increase of 500, which makes the total population of the whole Colony over 40,000, an addition of about 5,000 for the year. Through the agency of the Board of Immigration, 1,556 immigrants from Great Britain were landed in 1886.

7.—*Imports and Exports.*

Both show a vigorous trade with the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and foreign countries, very considerably in advance of previous year, as these figures indicate :—

			£
Exports in 1885	-	-	446,691
Do. 1886	-	-	630,393
			<hr/>
Increase	-	-	183,702
			<hr/>
			£
Imports in 1885	-	-	650,391
Do. 1886	-	-	758,012
			<hr/>
Increase	-	-	107,621
			<hr/>

Taking the above figures, the fact is disclosed that the total trade was about 34*l.* a head for an European population of 40,000, being for exports nearly 16*l.*, and for imports over 18*l.* However, some considerable allowance must be made for the native aboriginal population now largely employed, and contributing to swell both exports and imports, as well as other nationalities, including Malays, engaged in pearling and other industries in the northern division of the Colony.

8.—*Shipping.*

		Tonnage.
		<hr/>
289 steam and sailing vessels entered inwards in 1886	-	262,158
261 steam and sailing vessels cleared outwards in 1886	-	239,461

An increase of about 30,000 tons on shipping inwards, and of about 3,000 tons on vessels cleared at all ports in the Colony during the year 1885.

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA.9.—*Education.*

The total number of scholars in both Government and Assisted schools was, in 1885, 4,479; in 1886, 4,508, an increase in latter year of 29; but taking the average attendance, there was a decrease of 11 in the Government schools and an increase of eight in the Assisted schools. The cost per head was slightly more in both classes.

10.—*Criminal Statistics*

Beyond the fact that the charge of the remaining probation and re-convicted convicts was handed over to the Colonial Government authorities on the 31st March, there is nothing particular to remark under the above head.

11.—*Agriculture.*

The area of cultivated land throughout the Colony is estimated at 86,248 acres, as against 77,728 acres in 1885, an increase of 8,520 acres for 1886.

The increase of number of stock is satisfactory.

—					1885.	1886.
Horses	-	-	-	-	34,392	38,360
Cattle	-	-	-	-	70,408	88,254
Sheep	-	-	-	-	1,702,719	1,809,071
Pigs	-	-	-	-	24,280	24,655
Goats	-	-	-	-	4,529	5,301

12.—*Legislation.*

The following Statutes were passed by the Legislature and became law:—

No. 1.—An Act to confirm the expenditure for the services of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five beyond the grants for that year.

No. 2.—An Act to authorise the construction of a railway from Geraldton to Greenough.

No. 3.—An Act to authorise the construction of the Spencer's Brook-Northam branch of the Eastern Railway.

No. 4.—An Act to authorise the construction of the Cossack-Roebourne Tramway.

- No. 5.—An Act to alter the law relating to the procedure under "The Designs and Trade Marks Act, 1884," and "An Act to regulate grants of Patents for Inventions in the Colony of Western Australia."
- No. 6.—An Act to provide for the licensing of land surveyors.
- No. 7.—An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the pearl shell fishery special revenue.
- No. 8.—An Act to confirm the expenditure for the services of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one beyond the grants for that year.
- No. 9.—An Act to amend "The Hawkers Act, 1882."
- No. 10.—An Act to increase the number of members to serve in the Legislative Council.
- No. 11.—An Act to amend "The Boat Licensing Act, 1878."
- No. 12.—An Act to impose a duty upon the importation of opium.
- No. 13.—An Act to regulate and restrict Chinese immigration.
- No. 14.—An Act to authorise the granting of exclusive licenses, within defined areas in the waters of Sharks Bay, for pearl shell fishing.
- No. 15.—An Act to amend the Criminal Law Procedure.
- No. 16.—An Act to provide for the payment of certain additional and unforeseen expenses in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, over and above the estimates for that year.
- No. 17.—An Act to provide for the constitution of magisterial districts.
- No. 18.—An Act for the management of goldfields.
- No. 19.—An Act to amend the law relating to public health.
- No. 20.—An Act to amend an Act passed in the 6th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, No. 5, intituled "An Act to provide a summary remedy in certain cases of breach of contract."
- No. 21.—An Act to impose a duty upon gold.
- No. 22.—An Act to legalise the closure of Drummond Street in the town of Guildford.
- No. 23.—An Act for the re-appropriation of portion of certain moneys appropriated for harbour works at Fremantle, by "The Loan Act, 1884."
- No. 24.—An Act to confirm a certain contract for the construction of a railway from Guildford to the Greenough Flats, and to amend "The Eastern Railway Extension Act, 1881."
- No. 25.—An Act to provide for the better protection and management of the aboriginal natives of Western Australia, and to amend the law relating to certain contracts with such aboriginal natives.
- No. 26.—An Act to regulate the granting of licenses under "The Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1880," in certain districts, and further to amend the said Act.

**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA.**

- No. 27.—An Act to provide for the constitution of Courts of General Sessions of the Peace in the districts of East Kimberley and West Kimberley, and to amend the law relating to the qualifications of jurors and the constitution of juries in such Courts.
- No. 28.—An Act to amend "The Supreme Court Act, 1880."
- No. 29.—An Act to refer certain matters to the Federal Council of Australasia.
- No. 30.—An Act to enable the trustees of the Swan River Mechanics' Institute to raise money on mortgage of certain lands vested in them, and also to lease the same lands.
- No. 31.—An Act to amend the law regulating the admission of barristers, solicitors, attorneys, and proctors to the Supreme Court.
- No. 32.—An Act to appropriate the sum of three hundred and sixty thousand five hundred and ninety-four pounds nine shillings and one penny out of the general revenue of the Colony for such services as shall come in course of payment during the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.
- No. 33.—An Act to extend the powers and provisions of "The Perth Gas Company, Limited," and to give to the said Company other powers and privileges.
- No. 34.—An Act to extend the powers of "The Fremantle Gas and Coke Company, Limited," and to make provision for the better carrying on of the business and works of the said Company.

13.—*Concluding Remarks.*

The foregoing review of the principal statistics contained in the Blue Book for 1886 may, I think, give great encouragement, for it certainly may be read as indicating a sure and material progress throughout the Colony in many directions, despite the depressed state of trade which has been general in the British dominions for a considerable period, but more especially during the past year or so. With its now rapidly expanding trade and better markets the returns at the end of this year, the fiftieth of Her Majesty's reign, and the fifty-eighth since the foundation of the Colony, should mark the commencement of an epoch which a future historian may regard as the beginning of the more real and extended development of Western Australia.

(Signed) MALCOLM FRASER,
Perth, 28th May 1887. Colonial Secretary.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

No. 3.

Governor Sir H. W. NORMAN to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR,

King's House, June 8, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to forward my report upon the Blue Book of Jamaica for the year 1885-86.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN,
Governor.

The Right Hon.

Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK, 1885-86.

Legislation.

Twenty-seven Laws were passed by the Legislative Council during the year, of which the following were the most important:—

Law 24 of 1885.—“The Customs Consolidation Law, 1877, Amendment Law, 1885.”

This Law follows in the main the lines laid down in Law 18 of 1877, but at the same time it does away with the parts of that law that had been found to be self-contradictory, and generally simplifies the procedure.

Law 26 of 1885.—“The Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks Additional Powers Law, 1885.”

The quantity of water which the Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks Commissioners are entitled to take out of the Hope river has been found insufficient to provide a proper supply for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, and the purpose of this Law is to afford such additional supply by arrangement with the proprietors for certain rights belonging to them of taking water from the Wag Water River. The increased water supply will also afford additional protection to the city of Kingston in cases of fire.

Law 27 of 1885.—“The Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks Loan Law, 1885.”

This is a necessary corollary enactment to the previous one, and empowers the Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks Commissioners to raise 20,000*l.* for the purposes of an increased water supply.

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Law 28 of 1885.—“The Medical Laws of 1872 and 1879 Amendment Law, 1885.”

The Bill was introduced at the instance of the Jamaica branch of the British Medical Association. The chief provision is an amendment of a section of Law 47 of 1872, which it was felt opened the door too wide for the admission of unqualified practitioners, as it entitled any person to be put on the Jamaica Register who was registered in any British Colony, however small, and however lax its rules might be as to registration.

It was also found under the Law of 1872 that it was almost impossible to determine the relative value of some foreign medical degrees. In this Law the possession of a degree of some kind is a *sine quâ non*, but the person desirous of registration if not already registered or entitled to be registered in England, Scotland, or Ireland, must pass an examination before examiners to be appointed for that purpose in Jamaica.

Law 32 of 1885.—“The Birds and Fish Protection Law, 1885.”

The indiscriminate destruction of fish in the rivers and streams of the Island by the use of explosives, and of poisonous and intoxicating herbs, of which latter there is great variety, and which are easily accessible to anyone who wishes to make use of them; and the wholesale destruction of wild birds of all kinds in and out of season which prevailed, rendered a law of this kind very necessary here. As an example of the wholesale destruction of birds likely to occur before the law was passed it may be mentioned that an advertisement appeared in a local paper for 10,000 humming-bird skins, evidently intended to be sold for ornamental purposes. In this Law certain birds which were being rapidly exterminated on account of the value of their plumage as well as others that are specially useful to agriculture as insect destroyers are now absolutely protected; while certain edible birds, fishes, and creatures have now a close season provided during which it is unlawful to kill them.

Law 34 of 1885.—“The Pensions Law, 1885.”

Previously to the enactment of this Law public officers had received pensions under the Colonial regulations subject to approval by the annual vote of the Legislative Council. The present Law is restricted in its operation to officers in the service at the time of its passing and the object of the Law all through is to preserve to such officers all the rights which they have been supposed heretofore to enjoy and to avoid annual discussions as to particular pensions previously granted. It is provided that pensions shall be calculated at the usual rate of one sixtieth of the salary for each year of service, with an inter-tropical allowance of five years. The age of retirement is fixed at 60 years, but an officer may retire at the age of 55 years, on foregoing his right to the inter-tropical or other additional allowances; and on production of satisfactory medical certificates of unfitness, a pension can be given at an earlier period.

Law 1 of 1886.—“A Law to amend the Law relating to Partition.”

This is merely a copy of the Imperial Act on the same subject (39 & 40 Vict. c. 17) intended to supersede the Partition Act of 1868, which had previously been adopted here.

Law 3 of 1886.—“The Probate of Deeds Amendment Law, 1886.”

This Law affords further facilities for the probate of deeds executed outside the limits of this island by enabling such probate to be before any notary public, provided that in foreign countries his signature is attested.

Law 4 of 1886.—“The Birds and Fish Protection Law, 1886, Amendment Law, 1886.”

This amending Act empowers the Governor to vary the close season fixed in the schedule as to any of the birds, &c. there named.

“Law 6 of 1886.—The Law for the Relief of the Poor, 1886.”

This measure is one of considerable importance to the Island, and evoked much opposition in some quarters in the Colony. The original draft of the Bill was prepared by a private member of the Legislative Council, who had obtained considerable experience in matters of poor relief both in Scotland and Jamaica.

By a Law passed in 1881 (15) certain powers were vested in the Governor in questions of poor relief, but it had not been found practicable to carry out any real supervision under that Law even when the parochial boards were nominated by the Governor, and this difficulty was increased when boards came to be elected, while various circumstances led to the conviction that it was essential to have some central authority to lay down and enforce general principles of poor relief, and to interpose when there was neglect.

The control by this Law is vested in a board of supervision to consist of nine members to be appointed by the Governor. The board may appoint committees and further may appoint one or more of its members to hold any special inquiry.

Power is given to the board to summon witnesses and examine upon oath.

In each parish one or more inspectors of the poor are to be appointed at a remuneration to be fixed by the parochial board. As regards medical attendance a parochial board is required to appoint a medical officer to a district only when there is no “district medical officer” appointed by Government, whose duty it is to look after the poor of the district. The cases in which poor relief can be given are defined in the law, and appeals are provided for. These are the outlines of the main provisions of this law which in its detail is clearly worked out, and reflects credit on the draftsman to whom I have already referred.

Law 9 of 1886.—“The Registration of Voters Law, 1886.”

The Registration of Voters Law (Law 20 of 1884) related only to voters at the election of members of the Legislative Council.

JAMAICA.

When, subsequently, provision was made for the election by the same electors of Parochial Boards provision was made, by Law 16 of 1885, for making up the register for the several divisions of each parish from the register of the district. This was found, however, in practice, to give rise to a good deal of needless trouble and to at once duplicate the printing. The object of the present Bill is to reverse the process so as first to make up the registers for the several divisions of a parish for the purpose of board elections, and then to let the general register for the divisions of a parish stand as the register for the parish when the parish forms an electoral district, and in cases where a district is made up of two parishes to consolidate the two parish registers together so as to make up a register for the district.

Law 10 of 1886.—“The Parochial General Purposes Fund Law.”

The object of this Law is, as stated in the preamble, to enable the parochial boards to provide themselves when necessary with funds to meet expenditure for general purposes of their parishes.

Law 12 of 1886.—“The Post Office Law Amendment Law.”

The introduction of the parcels post from England to this Island rendered it necessary to adapt our law to the circumstances as was done in England. The provisions of the law are mainly taken from the rules made by the English Postmaster-General and the Commissioners of Customs, and regulate the examination, payment of duty, and the delivery of the parcels received.

Law 14 of 1886.—“The Railways Further Loan Law, 1886.”

This Law gives authority for the raising of a further loan of 52,000*l.* to complete the capital expenditure on the extension of the lines to Porus and to Ewarton, as well as to include the amount of an award of the arbitrator in the case between the contractors and the Government.

Finance.

The year under report commenced with a surplus of 38,009*l.*, which, added to the revenue of the year 473,349*l.*, made a total sum available to meet expenditure of 511,358*l.* The expenditure, on the other hand, including 14,000*l.* for sinking funds and 2,400*l.* for redemption of debt, amounted to 503,111*l.*, thus leaving the small surplus of 8,247*l.* on the close of the year available towards the ways and means of the succeeding year.

The appropriated revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, pauper relief, sanitary and other similar local services, and are administered by the several parochial boards, produced, in 1885–86, 91,026*l.* being slightly in excess of the receipts in the year before.

The revenue appropriated to immigration services, and including proceeds of employers' promissory notes for cost of introduction of immigrants amounted to 13,948*l.* and the expenditure to 10,563*l.*, there being no expenditure on account of introduction of immigrants during the year.

The usual comparative table of the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year under report, with those of the previous year, is given below :—

JAMAICA.

	1885-86.	1884-85.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	245,781	263,564	—	17,783
Export duties - - -	5,601	6,337	—	736
Light dues - - -	1,964	2,068	—	104
Harbour master's fees - -	1,799	1,336	463	—
Rum duties - - -	80,455	84,581	—	4,126
Licenses - - -	15,848	16,987	—	1,144
Stamps - - -	14,524	16,906	—	2,382
Stock - - -	4,654	4,866	—	212
Tax revenue - - -	370,621	396,645	463	26,487
Postal revenue - - -	16,531	16,628	—	97
Telegraph revenue - - -	4,053	4,244	—	191
Court fees - - -	6,071	7,018	—	947
Fines and forfeitures - -	3,249	2,565	684	—
Interest on securities held for sinking funds - - -	7,066	6,700	366	—
Interest on Savings Bank investments after paying depositors -	3,697	3,352	345	—
Interest other than as above -	3,580	2,627	953	—
Jamaica railway revenue - -	34,824	32,019	2,805	—
Reimbursements - - -	18,718	19,943	—	1,225
Miscellaneous - - -	4,989	12,978	—	8,089
Non-tax revenue - - -	102,728	108,074	5,153	10,499
Total - - -	473,349	504,719	—	31,370
<i>Revenues specially appropriated.</i>				
Parochial road revenues - -	38,246	40,496	—	2,250
Kingston street tax - - -	2,786	2,317	469	—
Parochial municipal objects -	8,442	8,057	385	—
Poor rates - - -	30,377	29,678	699	—
Sanitary rates - - -	4,430	4,040	390	—
Fire rates - - -	1,541	1,420	121	—
Gas rates - - -	3,413	3,421	—	8
Miscellaneous - - -	1,600	1,008	592	—
Parochial general purposes -	191	—	191	—
	91,026	90,437	2,847	2,258
	—	—	589	—

JAMAICA.

	1884-85.	1885-84.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Immigration Revenues.</i>	£	£	£	£
Export duties - - -	8,127	12,075	—	3,948
Interest (general) - -	347	309	38	—
Proceeds of promissory notes -	5,376	4,707	669	—
Miscellaneous - - -	98	151	—	53
	13,948	17,242	707	4,001
	—	—	—	3,294
<i>Receipts on Debt Account.</i>				
Law 27 of 1872 - - -	—	82,500	—	82,500
Law 17 of 1884 - - -	—	183,000	—	183,000
Law 1 of 1879 - - -	830	—	830	—
Law 14 of 1886 - - -	42,000	—	42,000	—

The yield of the general revenue shows the large falling off of 31,370*l.* when compared with the previous year. This falling off appears in every item of the tax revenue (the increase in harbour fees bring due to some harbour masters being placed on salaries) and can only be attributed to the misfortunes of drought and storm and to the general depression of trade and business, from which Jamaica, in common with the rest of the world, suffered during the year. The net decrease of 5,346*l.* on non-tax receipts is, perhaps, rather more apparent than real, because the railway extensions had not been opened in the former year, and were temporarily closed in the latter year from accidents of weather, elsewhere explained, and because there was in 1884-85 an abnormal receipt of over 7,000*l.* for recovered lands, sales in respect of which for some past years having been brought to account.

The receipts on account of appropriated revenues show nothing unusual or calling for special remark with the exception of the large decrease of 2,250*l.* under the parochial road revenues, which is attributed to the decrease of wheel traffic in consequence of the extension of the railway, and to the forbearance exercised in collection in consequence of losses from the cyclone. The average receipts of the four previous years had, however, been only 26,818*l.*

Under immigration revenues there is a considerable decrease in the export duties, owing to the smaller crops of sugar and rum produced during the year under review.

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with those in the preceding year:—

JAMAICA.

	1885-86.	1884-85.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>General Expenditure.</i>	£	£	£	£
Interest on debt - - -	72,423	65,823	6,600	—
Pensions - - -	12,733	12,629	104	—
Administrative departments - - -	32,606	33,797	—	1,191
Revenue departments - - -	31,849	32,234	—	385
Postal services - - -	18,608	18,600	8	—
Telegraphs - - -	3,828	3,937	—	109
Judicial - - -	35,248	34,715	533	—
Ecclesiastical - - -	6,985	7,409	—	424
Medical - - -	49,785	49,031	754	—
Constabulary - - -	48,650	48,324	326	—
Penitentiary and prisons - - -	18,467	18,567	—	100
Reformatories - - -	5,095	3,986	1,109	—
Education - - -	30,833	28,245	1,888	—
Military - - -	6,709	3,868	2,841	—
Pilotage and harbours - - -	1,822	1,446	376	—
Steam communication with America - - -	158	283	—	180
Steam communication round the Island - - -	2,000	1,833	167	—
Subsidy West India and Panama Telegraph Company - - -	2,000	2,000	—	—
Colonisation of immigrants - - -	4,488	9,660	—	5,172
Registrar-General's department - - -	3,026	2,924	102	—
Island Record Office - - -	960	985	—	25
Government printing establishment - - -	6,600	5,750	850	—
Institute of Jamaica - - -	850	917	—	67
Public plantations and gardens - - -	4,258	5,000	—	742
Jamaica railway - - -	27,424	18,017	9,407	—
Miscellaneous - - -	6,835	12,005	—	5,170
Public works - - -	51,187	45,491	5,696	—
Lighthouses - - -	1,098	2,123	—	1,025
Maintenance of forfeited lands - - -	189	55	134	—
Total - - -	486,709	470,354	16,355	—
<i>Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.</i>	£	£	£	£
Parochial roads - - -	41,844	41,167	677	—
Kingston streets - - -	919	231	688	—
Parochial municipal objects - - -	7,924	10,507	—	2,583
Relief of the poor - - -	32,599	31,257	1,342	—
Sanitary appropriation - - -	8,151	4,788	3,368	—
Gas appropriation, Kingston - - -	2,494	2,828	—	334
Fire appropriation, Kingston - - -	1,188	1,577	—	389
Parochial general purposes - - -	969	—	969	—
Total - - -	96,088	92,350	7,044	3,306
	—	—	8,738	—
Immigration expenditure - - -	10,563	14,715	—	4,152
Grand total - - -	593,360	577,419	15,941	—

JAMAICA.

	1885-86.	1884-85.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Expenditure out of Loans raised for the purpose</i>				
Jamaica Railway - - -	29,088	77,741	—	48,703
Rio Cobre Canal - - -	—	126,500	—	126,500
Portland Bridges - - -	217	—	217	—
	622,615	781,660	—	159,045
<i>Disbursements other than Expenditure.</i>				
Sinking funds - - -	14,008	12,557	1,446	—
Redemption of debt - - -	2,400	1,600	800	—
Excess of withdrawals over deposits - - -	11,117	39,099	—	27,982

The general expenditure of the Colony thus shows an increase of 16,355*l.* over that of the preceding years, the largest items of which are under interest on debt 6,600*l.*, due to the increase in consequence of the further railway loan raised this year, and to the interest on the loan for the construction of the Rio Cobre Canal, now appearing as a direct charge of debt on general revenue, instead of in the charge under works of loss in working the undertaking; under reformatories 1,109*l.*, due to an increased number of inmates; under education 1,888*l.*, due to the extension of the training college branch of the elementary system; under military 2,841*l.*, due to some extent to an increase in the strength of the troops, but chiefly to expenses connected with the volunteer militia recently enrolled; under Jamaica Railway 9,408*l.*, due partly to a corresponding increase of working expenses in connexion with the extensions, and partly to unusual expenditure for repairing flood damages; and under public works 5,696*l.*, due to the same damages. On the other hand, there are decreases under administrative (1,191*l.*) and revenue departments (385*l.*), due to the expenses of election of the newly constituted Legislative Council appearing in 1884-85, and to an extraordinary charge to the savings bank on account of the cost of transfer of investments from the Colony to England; under ecclesiastical 424*l.*, due to the retirement on a pension chargeable under another head of a State-paid incumbent; under colonization of immigrants 5,171*l.*, as all those entitled to bounty in lieu of back passage did not come up for settlement within the year; under public plantations and gardens 742*l.*, due to the reduction of expenditure; under miscellaneous 5,171*l.*, the expenditure in the year before having been unusually high in consequence of expenses of Royal Finance Commission, commission to Canada, New Orleans Exhibition parochial elections, &c., and under lighthouses 1,025*l.*, the expenditure of 1884-85 having included the cost of providing improved and more economically worked lighting apparatus at Plumb Point.

The expenditure under appropriated revenues, which is limited to the amounts received with any balances brought forward from the preceding years, does not call for any special remark, except that the total expenditure has exceeded the year's receipts by 5,062*l.*, and that the unusually large expenditure under pauper and sanitary appropriation was due to the unfortunate outbreak of small-pox during the year, which in its continuance has involved even heavier expenditure in 1886-87. The new item of parochial general purposes is for the expenses of parochial elections and other expenses of the newly elected parochial boards specified in the Law 10 of 1886.

The expenditure on account of immigration services shows a decrease of 4,152*l.*, principally due to no expenditure having taken place during the year on account of the introduction of immigrants, while the cost of a return vessel fell on this year's accounts and not on those of 1884-85.

Pensions.

During the year eight pensions, amounting in all to 270*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* were granted under the provisions of the Jamaica Pensions Law 34 of 1886, while relief to the pension list was afforded to the extent of 1,422*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* by the death during the year of 13 pensioners.

Debt.

The sum of 42,000*l.* was raised during the year on account of the loan of 52,000*l.* authorised under Law 14 of 1886 to complete the payments for railway extensions to Porus and Ewarton, and to include the amount of the award of the arbitrators on the particular points which had then been referred to them for decision. This amount was raised locally at an average rate slightly above par. A sum of 2,400 of debt under the old immigration loan was paid off from general revenue, as well as 2,700*l.* of the railway loan under Law 12 of 1879 from the redemption fund provided for the purpose, and 600*l.* under Law 47 of 1869 from the provision made therefore under Law 19 of 1880.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue has stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last 10 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking fund actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

				£	s.	d.
1877	-	-	-	485,107	11	5
1878	-	-	-	641,644	10	9
1879	-	-	-	718,608	11	11
1880	-	-	-	721,481	6	8
1881	-	-	-	920,924	19	4
1882	-	-	-	1,238,750	0	0
1883	-	-	-	1,257,916	2	1
1884	-	-	-	1,243,899	18	9
1885	-	-	-	1,427,458	14	2
1886	-	-	-	1,478,790	3	8

JAMAICA.

Of the above amount of debt on 30th September last 702,400*l.* was on account of railway purchase, reconstruction, and extension, and 126,500*l.* on account of the Rio Cobre Canal.

The amount of the increase in the debt in the year under report was entirely for railway extension purposes.

It will be observed that whereas the public debt in 1886 was only 234,891*l.* more than in 1884, the annual provision on the estimates for charges of debt has risen from 57,841*l.* to 91,145*l.*, an increase of 33,304*l.* This apparent difference is accounted for by the interest on the 400,000*l.* loan being paid out of capital and not out of current revenue until the works were completed after the close of the former year, and by the first instalment of the Redemption Fund of the 1879 loan of 149,000*l.* not falling due until 1885, as well as by a sum of 3,000*l.*, by which the annual accretions of sinkings had increased without any immediate diminution of the capital debt.

The amount of debenture debt due by the several undertakings specified below was not affected during the year except that the Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks Commissioners raised a further sum of 19,000*l.*, for the extension of their works by taking in the Wag water supply. The estimated revenue of some 2,000*l.* from this extension amply justified the borrowing of the amount, and great public convenience is expected to result from the increased quantity and the superior source of supply.

The amounts were as under on the 30th September 1886 :—

	£
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks -	128,200
Kingston markets - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - -	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house - -	10,000

Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council met for business during the year on the 16th September 1885, and sat until the 29th of the following month, and again on the 3rd and 4th December 1885, when the Council was prorogued. A new session commenced upon the 31st March 1886, and the Council sat until the 2nd April, and again met on the 22nd September, and was sitting when the year closed on the 30th of the same month.

The Hon. George Henderson, member for the electoral district of Portland and St. Thomas, resigned his seat in August 1886, and Mr. William Bancroft Escent was returned as his successor on the 27th of the same month.

The Hon. Emanuel George Levy, member of the Council for the district of St. Catherine, died on the 19th September 1886, and the Hon. Thomas Lloyd Harvey was elected in his stead on the 11th October following, but did not take his seat owing to his absence from the Island.

*Civil Establishment.*JAMAICA.

There were numerous changes both temporary and permanent during the year.

His Excellency the Governor left the Island on leave of absence on the 10th December 1885 and Major General S. M. Wiseman-Clarke, the senior officer in command of the troops, assumed the administration of the Government as senior member of the Privy Council. His Excellency returned from leave on the 29th of March following.

On the 3rd March 1886 Mr. Daniel Morris, M.A., Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, severed his official connexion with the Colony, after performing useful and important service, to take up the post of Assistant Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew.

The Hon. H. H. Hocking, Attorney-General, left on leave of absence in April 1886, and did not return until after the end of the financial year, during which period Mr. Constantine Burke, assistant to the Attorney-General and Crown Solicitor, acted as Attorney-General conjointly with his other offices.

Mr. William John Anderson, Acting Judge of the Southern District Court, proceeded on leave of absence on the ground of ill-health on the 25th May 1886, and Mr. Thomas Oughton, Advocate and Clerk of the Legislative Council, was appointed his *locum tenens*.

Captain Hartwell, R.N., Inspector-General of Police, relinquished his appointment at the end of March, 1886, on his nomination to Her Majesty's Consular Service, and Inspector McLeod was appointed to act temporarily pending the appointment of his successor, Major Louis Frederick Knollys, C.M.G., who arrived in the month of August, 1886.

Captain Mainwaring, R.N., Harbour Master for Kingston and Assistant Stipendiary Magistrate, obtained six months' leave of absence from the 7th April, 1886, and Mr. A. M. Mould was appointed to act as Harbour Master, and Captain W. P. Forwood, J.P., as Assistant Stipendiary Magistrate.

Mr. Gillard, Collector-General, left on leave of absence in January, 1886, and Mr. Batten, Supervisor of Revenue Offices, was appointed to act in his stead.

Chief Justice Sir Adam Gib Ellis was granted leave of absence and Charles Ribton Curran, Esq., senior puisne judge, acted as Chief Justice from the 7th July 1886, and Mr. Ernest Augustus Northcote was appointed a puisne judge of the Supreme Court in the previous May to fill the vacancy caused by the lamented death of the late Mr. Alan Ker.

Major General Mann, R.E., C.M.G., Director of public works, took his departure from the Island on vacation leave of absence in July, 1886, preparatory to retirement from the service of the Colony after a long term of useful employment in Jamaica.

JAMAICA.

Mr. V. G. Bell, M.I.C.E., was appointed to act as Director of Public Works conjointly with his office of Engineer to the railway.

A new appointment was created of Adjutant to the Jamaica Volunteer Militia, a force then recently raised, and Captain Gray, of the 1st West India Regiment, received the appointment at the beginning of the year 1886.

Under the powers vested in the Governor by Law 6 of 1886, the Law for the relief of the poor, a Board of Supervision was appointed in September, 1886, consisting of the following gentlemen:—The Hons. S. C. Burke, Acting Attorney-General, C. B. Mosse, C.B., Superintending Medical Officer, R. Craig, M.L.C., and Chairman of the Parochial Board of Clarendon, W. Bourke, M.L.C., and Mayor of Kingston, J. P. Clark, Custos of Manchester and Chairman of the Parochial Board of Manchester, W. Ewen, Custos of Westmoreland, J. Macglashan, Esq., Auditor-General, and S. Soutar, Esq., Member of the Council of the City of Kingston and of the Parochial Board of St Andrew.

Public Works.

The total expenditure under all heads (excepting railways) has been 70,059*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*; of this sum 30,711*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* was required for maintenance, repair, and new works on main roads and bridges, and 39,348*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* was expended on maintenance and repair of public buildings, lighthouses, Rio Cobre Canal, parochial services, waterworks, &c. The average cost of maintenance of main roads and bridges was 36*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, which is the highest amount in any of the last six years, the average of that period having been 31*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* The total expenditure under the above head exceeded the estimated expenditure by 4,790*l.* 11*s.*, and this excess is due to two causes: first, the reduction of the estimates by the disallowance by the Legislative Council of the amount asked for contingencies; and secondly, to the exceptional weather which prevailed during the year. The rainfall during the year was 44·1 per cent. larger than the average. This statement of per-centage does not, however, give an altogether adequate idea of the effects of the rains, which were in many cases very heavy downpours lasting for days, and during that time doing great damage. The north-east end of the Island suffered most, the west end and west central portions of it least, from the effects of the rain.

The first floods of any extent took place between the 1st and 5th December. In the eastern district a fall of eight inches of rain occurred in two days, while in the western district within a limited area the fall was as great as nine inches within seven hours. More than 50 landslips were brought down by these rains on the Annotto Bay Junction Road, and several retaining walls were carried away.

After this the heavy weather continued on the north side, and from the 22nd to 24th December violent floods took place. In the eastern district there were falls of 26 inches in three days; falls of 15, 21, and 19 inches were registered in 36 hours at three stations near St. Anne's Bay, and at one station there was noted a fall of six and one half inches in one and a half hours. Similar weather prevailed in other parts of the Island, the effect of which was increased by a heavy norther. In the first week in June, 1886, there occurred floods which appear to be almost unprecedented in Jamaica. In one parish, that of Manchester, 43½ inches of rain fell in six days, and an immense amount of damage was done to roads and works by these floods.

Following this occurred the cyclone of the 27th June, accompanied by heavy rains, which again did extensive damage to the roads and telegraphs, and much of the work recently done was again entirely destroyed.

Last of all occurred the cyclone of the 20th of August, the effects of which were felt in all parts of the Island, except the south-western end, and the damage done was again very severe.

During the year there has been a large amount of repairs to the bridges and culverts on the main roads. Two new roads, one from Brown's Town to Cave Valley, forming a connecting link between the north and south side system, and the other from Port Antonio to Sandy river, have been added to the schedule of main roads. These two roads aggregate a length of over 20 miles. The following are some of the new works on main roads carried out during the year:—

A footbridge of very substantial construction has been erected over the Muirton river near Mauchioneal.

A considerable amount of retaining wall has been built on the Gordon Town and Constant Spring roads. The road near Port Antonio through the bog swamp has been raised and a large number of concrete culverts have been laid down to the improvement of other roads.

Of the 39,348*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* expended on other works, the main items are:—

	£	s.	d.
Repairs and maintenance of public buildings - - - -	6,743	17	6
New works on public buildings - - - -	6,244	3	5
Salaries - - - -	8,522	3	10
Parochial services - - - -	3,163	19	11
Parochial waterworks - - - -	7,121	14	4

The expenditure for repairs to public buildings is for usual maintenance.

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New works on public buildings include the following:—

The purchase of the post and telegraph offices at May Pau.

The commencement of a substantial building at Port Antonio for the revenue offices and rum bonded warehouse.

The completion of a tank at the Boys' Reformatory.

The conversion of the former district prison at Mandeville into a constabulary station, and of the station itself into post and telegraph offices.

The completion of a large ward at the Lunatic Asylum.

There have also been numerous additions and alterations at court houses, district prisons, and hospitals.

Under the head of parochial services are included the construction and restoring of roads and bridges, reporting and advising on proposed parochial works, and superintending and inspecting them. It is reported that in no less than 104 cases has this advice and assistance been rendered to the parochial boards.

The services in connexion with parochial waterworks consisted of preparing surveys and plans, and in some cases undertaking the actual construction of the works.

Spanish Town Waterworks.

The works in connexion with the Spanish Town water supply were continued under the management of the Director of Public Works; the total cost of their maintenance and management was 323*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* The total revenue for the year was 1,019*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, as against 1,084*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* received last year.

The works are in fair order, and the supply of water was continuous during the year.

Lands.

During the year four properties were recovered from squatters under the 184th section of the District Courts Law.

The amount realised by the sale of Government lands amounted during the year to 1,908*l.* 5*s.*, and the amount from lands leased to 47*l.*

A cadastral plan of the parish of St. Elizabeth on a scale of four inches to the mile was completed.

Rio Cobre Canal.

These works were maintained throughout the year at a cost of 1,630*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

The works were considerably damaged by the heavy rain which fell in June last.

The earnings amounted to 2,408*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* during the year, and the actual amount collected to 2,197*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, as against 2,709*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* and 2,358*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* of last year respectively.

The falling off is due to the heavy rainfall during the year which, of course, made proprietors independent for a time, of the supply from the canal.

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Inland Telegraphs.

The gross receipts during the year amounted to 4,055*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* showing a decrease of 189*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* on the collections of the previous year. Mr. Sullivan attributes this decrease to the continued depression of the fruit trade, and the continuous heavy rains and storms which prevailed during the year. The expenditure on account of telegraphs during the year amounted to 3,828*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, showing a decrease of 111*l.* 1*s.* 9½*d.* on the expenditure of the previous year. This amount includes salaries, wages, and services, but does not take into account the expenses of maintenance of the line, amounting to 1,984*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* in 1885-86, or the interest and redemption of the capital cost of construction, amounting to 790*l.* (5 per cent. on 15,802*l.*). The number of messages sent and received during the year is 73,622 as against 76,886 during the previous year, or a decrease of 3,264. This decrease, both in revenue and number of messages, is attributed to the general depression in trade, and also to the severe storms, both of wind and rain, which on several occasions destroyed the lines and interrupted communication for some time.

Under the arrangement entered into during the previous year with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company for the reception and transmission of foreign telegrams at inland telegraph stations the sum of 1,291*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* was collected at the several telegraph stations for telegrams to places beyond sea and was paid through the Island treasury to the clerk in charge of that company.

Telegraph stations were opened during the year at Ewarton and Yallahs.

There were 523½ miles of telegraph lines in operation during the year, which were maintained at a cost of 8*l.* 16*s.* a mile.

Railways.

The severe floods that occurred in December, January, and June of this year caused considerable damage both to the old line of railway and to the Porus and Ewarton extensions, and it was necessary to suspend traffic on the extensions for one day on the first occasion, for 13 days on the Porus line on the second occasion and for 92 days on the Ewarton line and 69 days on the Porus line in consequence of the floods in June. The repairs of those damages cost over 5,000*l.*, and 2,963*l.* is still required to complete the repairs on the Porus line as well as 9,350*l.* on the Ewarton line, where the large retaining wall at the north end of the Gibraltar tunnel was undermined and fell.

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These suspensions of traffic and the prevalence of small-pox in Kingston and the neighbourhood, which much deterred people from travelling, of course affected the earnings of the railway, the total gross receipts being 34,772*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* against an estimate of 47,300*l.*

Although a good deal remained to be done to restore the line, yet, owing to a temporary deviation at the north end of the Gibraltar tunnel and other temporary works, traffic was fully open at the end of the year, and the rolling stock was maintained in good order and condition throughout the year.

	£	s.	d.
The gross receipts for the year			
amounted to - - -	34,772	7	9
The expenditure to - - -	27,903	10	10
Leaving a net revenue of - - -	6,868	16	11

The result leaves a charge of 23,692*l.* for the year on the general revenue after the payment of interest on railway loans.

The following statement shows the receipts of the year under review as compared with the five years preceding :—

—	1885-86.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1882-83.	1881-82.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Goods and cattle -	16,969 10 3	13,384 15 7	12,198 12 11	13,207 10 8	15,697 0 6
Passengers -	15,017 9 8	14,977 18 3	11,678 4 3	10,514 12 2	9,530 16 10
Miscellaneous -	723 12 8	1,610 14 0	1,203 12 10	317 4 9	94 1 5
Wharf -	2,071 15 2	1,885 4 5	1,938 7 0	1,805 15 0	693 4 2
Total -	34,772 7 9	31,968 12 3	27,018 17 0	25,645 2 7	25,015 2 11
Expenditure, excluding wharf as usual -	27,903 10 10	17,003 11 8	11,906 8 7	11,063 18 2	12,804 11 0
Per-centage of working expenses of line to revenue of line -	80·24	53·24	47·2	49·09	50·56

The unusually large per-centage of expenditure to receipts as compared with previous years is due to the heavy expenditure in repairing the damages referred to, and to the suspensions of traffic during such repairs reducing the receipts.

The total number of passengers carried was 186,938, and although this number is 14,909 less than that carried last year the receipts for passengers was 39*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* more than was then received, owing to the greater number of miles of line being open and the average length of journeys of passengers being longer.

District Courts

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The following summary shows the business of the district courts during the past 10 years :—

—	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Criminal trials -	3,707	4,054	3,319	3,197	4,372	3,279	3,870	3,510	3,412	3,942
Small causes -	9,212	9,616	7,704	7,852	7,779	6,907	4,638	3,606	3,503	3,516
Judgment sum- monses -	1,670	1,579	1,592	1,662	1,514	1,304	836	566	522	470
Equity cases -	8	21	20	15	19	14	20	21	14	8
Cases under Land Law -	222	163	104	126	159	78	66	108	88	97
Bankruptcy cases -	17	5	1	8	1	6	4	4	2	—
Probate cases -	98	94	102	100	147	131	123	125	137	116
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount obtained -	60,894	63,300	51,510	47,408	54,736	45,735	33,236	28,012	25,923	27,067
Judgment obtained -	30,976	32,348	28,479	34,056	30,747	28,946	19,718	16,411	15,858	16,415
Costs -	5,531	5,636	4,952	4,967	5,351	4,406	3,735	3,381	3,279	3,270
Court fees -	5,436	5,491	4,787	4,484	4,588	4,073	3,708	3,525	3,422	3,340

There is not much change when compared with the three years immediately preceding. After the close of the year under review a considerable reduction was made in the fees of court under Law 28 of 1886, which soon resulted in a large increase of business with some loss of total receipts.

There were 14 appeals from the judgments of these courts during the year, eight being in civil and six in criminal cases. In six cases the judgments of the lower courts were set aside or reversed.

No progress was made in the proposed re-organization of these courts, as the Legislative Council, before whom the measure was to come, did not meet until the end of the year.

Botanical Department.

During the year the Botanical Department was deprived of the services of Mr. Morris, who for more than six years held the appointment of director, and who was promoted to be assistant director of the Royal Gardens at Kew. The energetic and able services rendered by Mr. Morris had been of great value to the department.

On the departure of Mr. Morris, Major O'Brien, R.E., Assistant Director of Public Works, was appointed to act as Director of the Botanical Department. Major O'Brien left the Island in July, and Mr. Hart, Superintendent of the cinchona plantation, assumed charge of the department.

Pending the settlement of the question of the condition in which this department should be maintained in the future no new or expensive works were undertaken during the year, but the several plantations were kept in a state of efficiency. The cyclone of

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August and the excessive rainfall during the year did considerable damage, but in both cases by prompt measures on the part of the superintendents in charge many valuable trees and plants were saved, and at the cinchona plantation the bark of many thousand trees which had been blown down was harvested and prepared for shipment.

The work of the herbarium has been proceeded with on the lines laid down by Mr. Morris, and the exchanges initiated by him with other botanical establishments have been carried on, and a fine consignment of well determined North American plants has been received from the botanists of the Department of Agriculture at Washington. The whole collection of dried flowering plants which had been accumulating for the previous six years, was sent to Kew for determination.

Castleton Gardens.

The Sowari nut or butter-nut tree bore fruit at Castleton for the first time this year. The mangosteen also bore fruit for the first time at this garden, and it is believed for the first time in Jamaica. A very considerable distribution of plants and seeds was effected from this garden during the year, over 12,000 being sold and many thousands gratuitously distributed.

Several new plants have been received, including the valuable rubber plant from British Guiana, citrons from Trinidad, and several new varieties of orange and lemon plants from England: a considerable number of plants not in the collection were also received from the Royal Gardens at Kew, including 35 plants of the *gynocardia odorata*, which produces the medicinal preparation known as chaulmangra oil, said to be useful in skin diseases.

Hope Plantation and Nurseries.

The Hope establishment which was primarily acquired for the trial and propagation of the best varieties of sugar cane has lately become an important dépôt for the propagation and distribution of economic and ornamental plants and seeds, and has been successfully carried on during the year. Its nurseries now contain a full supply of plants for distribution. The teak plantation at this garden suffered considerably from the cyclone. The experimental pine and cane cultivation has done well, and the olives and nutmegs are thriving.

King's House Gardens.

No new works of importance were undertaken at the King's House Gardens or grounds during the year, but the fences and roads have been maintained in proper order and the beds and walks carefully attended to. A small distribution of plants and seeds is carried on by the Superintendent in charge.

Parade Garden, Kingston.

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The Kingston Parade Garden has been well kept up with shade and ornamental trees, and is much appreciated by the inhabitants of the town. A small rockery has been formed at the north entrance of the garden, which has greatly improved its appearance, while the fine rains which fell during the year have greatly assisted the development of all classes of shrubs and trees under cultivation.

Palisadoes Plantation.

The cocoanut plantation on the Palisadoes has been maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year, and the vacancies caused by the deaths of plants during the preceding years of severe drought have been supplied.

A select committee of the Legislative Council who reported on the whole Botanical Department after the close of the financial year made several recommendations, of which the principal were the maintenance of the department at a sum not exceeding its present cost, and the transfer of nursery operations from Castleton to the more accessible garden at the Hope.

Education.

The year under review is the 19th year since the introduction of the present system of education in 1867, which filled the almost complete void existing in this direction at that time so far as Government aid and control were concerned.

The following is a comparative summary of the work of the department for the last three years:—

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools passed on inspection.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in average attendance.	Percentage in average attendance of number on Books.	Class of School.						Fees collected.	Grants in aid including Building Grants 1,600. each year.
						I.	II.	III.	*	E.	F.		
1885-86	720	687	60,904	34,568	56.70	70	254	357	—	6	36	£ 6,954 11	£ 21,366 7
1884-85	725	663	62,106	36,079	58.1	65	251	310	34	3	65	7,903 0	21,707 0
1883-84	703	663	57,280	32,215	56.	60	215	233	51	4	40	7,143 0	20,358 0

* One third of class-grant deducted for failure in arithmetic. E. Exceptional. F. Failures.

There has been a decrease in the number of scholars on the books, and also in average attendance during the period embraced in the returns. Unpropitious weather is said to have been the

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cause of this decrease, and it is noted that the numbers have not fallen off as much this year as they had advanced the year before. There has, moreover, been a steady advance in the class of schools, and therefore the total amount of grants earned has not fallen off.

It is regretfully mentioned by the Inspector of Schools that, all things considered, the payment of fees continues very irregular and unsatisfactory. In connexion with this matter the Inspector of Schools makes the following observations :—

“I have received with regret reports from the country that many parents having heard of the report of the Education Commission have refused to pay fees, saying that they are abolished. I trust that all managers and persons having influence among the people will do their utmost to combat this mischievous delusion. The report of the Education Commissioners may never be acted upon in all its details, and it is almost certain that no recommendations involving expenditure or sacrifice of revenue will be immediately carried into effect. In any case, school fees form an essential part of the present system; they are not yet, and it is not certain that they will ever be, abolished, and the obligation upon parents to pay them is just as binding as the obligation to pay any other debt.”

The training college students showed evidence of good steady work and progress in the annual examination held in December 1885. Provision was made in accordance with the terms of the *ad interim* report of the Education Commission adopted by the Legislative Council for an additional number of students, and an entrance examination was held in January, 1886, when 35 candidates were admitted to maintenance scholarships of 20*l.* a year in the Calabar (Baptist, Fairfield Bethabara,) both Moravian) and St. Mary's (Church of England) colleges respectively. An increased desire to qualify as teachers has been stimulated by the creation of these scholarships, as the Inspector reports that the number of candidates entered for the December, 1886, examination is greater by 50 per cent. than on any previous examination, including the Moravian Colleges, which had never previously been examined by Government, the 20 additional students at the Lady Mico Institution, the 17 candidates from the Government Female Training College at Camperdown, and the 5 from St. Mary's. The Inspector further points out that as the “natural waste” in the teaching staff of Great Britain is placed at 6 per cent. in the last English Report of the Committee of Council on Education this would amount in Jamaica to 45 out of the total number of teachers in the Colony, and that the 50 teachers who annually leave our training colleges for the schools are certainly not at all in excess of our wants, especially when it is considered that for many years to come in addition to supplying this natural waste, our aim will be to replace incompetent by trained teachers as well.

The female training college at Camperdown has been in

continuous operation throughout the year; there are now 23 students in residence at the college. In connexion with this Government college for female teachers it is satisfactory to remark that the foundation stone for the erection of a substantial building solely for the education of girls has recently been laid near Porus under the auspices of the London Missionary Society.

The report of the Education Commission which was presented on the 9th July 1885 has not yet been acted upon. Very large questions, both of policy and of finance, are raised by this report, and on some of the points dealt with considerable difference of opinion exists outside the Commission. The most important of the recommendations of the Commission are (1) that "the provision of suitable residences should be deemed, at least in country districts, a necessary complement to the emoluments of teachers, and that to this end building grants for the purpose should be made by Government on the same principles as are now applied in the case of school building grants; (2) that a system of superannuation allowances and gratuities for teachers to a strictly limited extent should be adopted; (3) that attendance at school should be made compulsory; (4) that fees should be abolished; (5) that a central Board of Education, to be deliberative, consultative, and advisory, as well as a 'Board of Review' should be constituted; (6) that local boards should also be established, including all the school managers of the respective districts, and possessing powers strictly limited and defined."

Any extension of the operations of the education system cannot be effected without additional expenditure and, as our present fiscal means are insufficient to meet existing liabilities of the public purse, the question remains whether the demands of education should have a place among, or precedence of, the numerous claims that are now being urged and to meet which further taxation seems inevitable.

Immigration.

The protector in submitting his last periodical report points out that the returns he submits embrace a period of 15 months to the 31st December 1886, so as to meet the desire of the Government of India that all returns should be made in future for the calendar year; instead of as hitherto for the financial year of the Colony, which ends on the 30th September.

No new immigrants were introduced during the 15 months, and the Governor's proclamation issued under the authority of Law 18 of 1886 has suspended immigration. This Law was passed and the subsequent action was taken in consequence of the report of a select committee of the Legislative Council, adopted by the Council, that a Law be passed abolishing the importation of Indian immigrants. As there had been no demand for these coolies preferred through the Protector of Immigrants since February 1886,

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except a small one for 55, the proposal was agreed to in the view it would lead to economies in the immigration department and consequent reduction of the export duties which are raised to meet those charges.

There is nothing to prevent recourse to immigration in the future, should it be conclusively proved that such a measure is necessary. At present there is no indication of any such necessity.

A return ship, the "St. Kilda," embarked 138 statute adults (besides some who paid for their own passages) for Calcutta on the 14th of November 1886. 145 of these people deposited for Treasury bills the sum of 2,875*l.*, in sums varying from 43*2l.* downwards, and took with them the usual quantity of jewellery.

The mortality returns of the 15 months are very satisfactory, averaging 2.69 per centum per annum for Chinese and East Indians the birth-rate is, however, very small.

It is interesting to notice that no cases of small-pox have occurred amongst the indentured coolies, all of whom have been vaccinated, though the disease has been prevalent in the Island for several months.

The Chinese who remain are still reported as performing satisfactory work, but their desertions have been large, indeed to such an extent as to call for a remission at the expense of the Immigration Fund of one half of the promissory notes given in respect of the permanent deserters. The crafty habits of these people and the facilities for concealment and escape to near neighbouring places make their capture by the police very difficult.

The East Indians, as they have hitherto proved themselves here, remain a prosperous and peaceful portion of the population, and their industry and thrift may be measured by the fact that the deposits by 888 of them in the Government Savings Bank on the 1st October 1886 aggregated a total of 23,363*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*

The Immigration Fund had 18,614*l.*, made up of 3,264*l.* in cash and of 15,350*l.* held in employers' promissory notes, at credit at the close of the last financial year on the 30th September 1886, and there was also 11,909*l.* accrued to the Return Passage Fund applicable to immigrants introduced since 1878. As soon as the claims on the fund, which is fed by the export duties on sugar and rum, and by the maturity of the notes held, will permit, the promised reduction or abolition of those duties will be effected. At present those claims are (1) the protective and inspectionary staff for the immigrants who are scattered over the Island, and the last of whose indentures do not expire until 1890; (2) of the agency in India for the return immigrants and for the concerns of those still under indenture, as well as for communication with the Indian Government; (3) the repatriation of the few still remaining immigrants who were introduced prior to 1878 and who are estimated now to number about 250; and (4) lastly, the liabilities on account of Chinese deserters which have been assumed in the part remission of the promissory notes in respect of them and

which, the Protector reports, may aggregate 4,000*l.* to 6,000*l.* if desertion should continue at its past rate.

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Emigration.

There was again in this year a considerable falling off in the number both of departures for and returns from Colon, owing no doubt as respects departures from hence to the partial suspension of works on the Canal. The numbers in each of the last three years have been :—

	Departures.	Returns.
1883-84 - - - -	24,301	11,600
1884-85 - - - -	15,094	15,076
1885-86 - - - -	8,803	6,700

It has also been remarked in some of the quarterly reports which I require from the Inspectors of Police here that Colon no longer appears to exercise so great an attraction for the negroes as formerly, many recognising that if they can obtain regular work in Jamaica the cheaper living, the better climate, home associations, and other local advantages are more than equal to the higher and somewhat nominal rate of wages earned at the Isthmus.

Another inducement has recently been offered to emigration from Jamaica by the construction of a railway from Port Limon in Costa Rica, but while this country may afford a better field than the Isthmus of Panama in point of climate, the other disadvantages do not appear to differ. Warnings as far as is consistent with a desire not to interfere with the labourer's freedom to dispose of his labour wherever seems best to himself have been repeatedly given, but I fear without much practical effect.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the bank have been as follows for the last 10 years :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1877	5,756	253,983
1878	6,002	273,620
1879	6,341	294,589
1880	7,297	333,970
1881	7,970	342,339
1882	9,543	324,847
1883	11,925	325,705
1884	13,602	350,546
1885	15,511	360,190
1886	16,320	363,292

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thus showing some check in the increase of numbers and of amounts. This arrest is attributed by the manager to the great and general depression in trade, and also to the prevalence of small-pox during the year, which necessarily limited the means of the people.

In the above amount of deposits are included five deposit accounts for the following public funds:—

	£	s.	d.
Immigrants Return Passage Fund -	11,909	10	3
Constabulary Reward Fund -	315	17	10
Sinking funds - - - -	2,087	2	4
Constabulary Pension Fund -	28	13	2
Smith and Beckford's Charity -	1,222	19	9

There were also 179 accounts for trusts, charities, Chancery suits, administrator general, and bankrupt estates amounting to a total deposit of 30,623*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* The remaining 16,136 accounts representing 311,443*l.*, are all ordinary and legitimate savings bank deposits.

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 10,501 were for 5*l.* and under and only 869 were for over 100*l.* This continued increase in the number of small accounts is very gratifying, as showing that the bank meets the wants and enjoys the confidence of the classes it was intended for.

The assets of the bank at 30th September last were distributed as follows:—

	£
In 3 per cent. consols - - -	20,061
In Canada debentures - - -	53,991
In Colonial debentures - - -	277,789
In Jamaica debentures - - -	830
Planters' notes (immigration) - - -	4
Cash in Colonial Bank - - -	10,617
Total - - - -	<u>368,292</u>

During the year 4,031 accounts were opened and 3,043 closed, showing in both cases a decrease in the figures of last year, while the number of deposits was 30,893 and of withdrawals 31,044, representing respectively 189,826*l.* and 196,833*l.*

Two new sub-branches, one at Porus in Manchester and the other at Brown's Town in St. Ann, were opened during the year, the business being transacted by the telegraph clerks at those places. The district branches in Kingston and the Saturday night opening at the Treasury also showed satisfactory working during the year.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to 12,282*l.*, while the revenue amounted to 13,842*l.*, thus showing a net profit of 1,562*l.* on the year's transactions. During the year the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury

in England relieved the investments of the bank in that country of the obligation to pay income tax, which had hitherto been charged. This concession will materially increase the working profits of the institution.

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Trade.

The value of the Imports in each of the last 10 years has been as follows :—

	£
1876-77	- - - - 1,552,339
1877-78	- - - - 1,492,722
1878-79	- - - - 1,347,342
1879-80	- - - - 1,475,197
1880-81	- - - - 1,392,699
1881-82	- - - - 1,321,962
1882-83	- - - - 1,625,411
1883-84	- - - - 1,568,639
1884-85	- - - - 1,487,833
1885-86	- - - - 1,325,603

From which it appears that the value in the year under report has been the smallest in the series except 1881-82, when, owing to unusually large crops of native food stuffs there was a considerable falling off in the importations of bread, biscuit, flour, and meal. The falling off in the year 1885-86 as compared with the year before under articles of food is chiefly under ale, 8,491*l.*; cheese, 1,002*l.*; salt fish of different kinds, 25,250*l.*; flour, 19,216*l.*; rice, 10,117*l.*; and spirits, 21,634*l.* These decreases are, however, not entirely attributable to lessened importations, but in a great measure to lower prices than in the preceding year. The large decrease of 5,221*l.* under kerosine oil is also to a considerable extent due to the same cause, the number of gallons imported having been 478,474 in 1885-86 against 483,295 in the previous year. Under articles used or intended for clothing the decreases are in clothing, ready-made, 2,363*l.*; cottons, 31,674*l.*; haberdashery and millinery, 26,425*l.*; hats, bonnets, &c., 2,678*l.*; boots and shoes, 3,749*l.*; and woollens, 7,538*l.*; while there have been increases amounting to about 5,000*l.* in all under building materials, as well as under coals, 9,505*l.*; guano and other manures, 1,048*l.*; pipes for fluids 5,840*l.*; specie, 22,044*l.* The great and universal depression in trade and in our special local circumstances, doubtless caused the large falling off in many of the articles of dress and luxury, while the more abundant food crops of the peasantry permitted a large

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decrease in the importation of foreign foods. The Collector General, however, remarks when commenting on these decreases that "although business generally has experienced a most unusual period of depression during the past year, and importations have been much less than in previous years yet the influence of the ever-increasing competition in manufacturing countries has a most material effect on the value of importations of manufactured goods causing a better article to be sold at a cheaper rate; this has been especially the case in all descriptions of cotton goods." The increase in the value of coal imported is doubtless due to the increase in the number of steamers now calling here, and in the gradual and continued transfer of the carrying trade from sailing vessels to steamers, and in piping to the various works in progress for supplying townships with water, while the large increase in specie is only apparent, being due to a more careful check and surveillance being now kept on this item, which is largely introduced in small amounts by labourers returning from the Isthmus. The total imports for consumption were drawn from the following countries in the per-centages stated:—United Kingdom 51·3, United States of America 34·1, Canada 11·1, other countries 3·5.

The following table, showing the values of imported articles which were freed from duty in 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports:—

—	1876- 77.	1877- 78.	1878- 79.	1879- 80.	1880- 81.	1881- 82.	1882- 83.	1883- 84.	1884- 85.	1885- 86.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines -	14,735	8,857	7,366	2,802	20,700	10,330	14,109	12,804	9,268	10,704
Mills -	1,643	2,115	5,724	2,661	1,702	2,208	1,563	2,516	863	257
Other machinery -	11,443	3,113	3,402	3,323	5,075	3,260	5,324	6,618	2,509	3,553
Pans for boiling sugar.	2,134	2,463	2,124	6,132	1,190	809	2,025	1,067	—	201
Pipes for fluids -	3,755	2,095	1,183	1,435	1,534	2,600	3,512	4,358	2,365	3,205
Stillis -	1,619	1,880	433	696	5,217	1,777	1,469	312	72	1,102
Shooks of all sorts	14,545	11,701	7,440	8,488	4,370	12,424	13,724	13,520	11,588	7,109
Staves -	19,508	6,040	4,524	10,519	3,299	10,015	6,148	10,590	9,052	3,376
Wood hoops -	1,447	2,966	1,643	1,919	756	1,932	1,923	1,047	1,107	855
Iron, galvanized -	3,259	2,229	2,097	974	5,156	3,595	9,409	8,049	4,758	3,132
„ other manufactures.	—	381	—	1,344	4,964	14	433	1,100	—	—
Miscellaneous -	5,651	8,720	4,689	4,592	7,443	5,015	7,118	5,242	4,854	4,339
	79,734	40,750	40,798	61,885	61,415	64,654	60,927	67,032	46,435	42,872

These figures do not call for any special remarks, except that the diminution in shooks and staves is probably due to a large

extent to the commendable increased substitution of native material.

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The value of the exports in each of the last 10 years is shown below :—

Year.	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1875-76 - -	1,440,131	76,884	1,517,015
1876-77 - -	1,419,625	39,004	1,458,669
1877-78 - -	1,165,145	35,560	1,210,705
1878-79 - -	1,262,869	94,702	1,357,571
1879-80 - -	1,427,144	85,834	1,512,978
1880-81 - -	1,104,407	74,187	1,178,594
1881-82 - -	1,471,917	77,141	1,549,053
1882-83 - -	1,365,863	103,578	1,469,446
1883-84 - -	1,350,900	133,089	1,483,989
1884-85 - -	1,181,203	227,645	1,408,348
1885-86 - -	1,078,315	201,803	1,280,118

showing a decrease of 128,730*l.* on the year immediately preceding, and being, in fact, less than any year in the decade, except 1877-78, in which year the exports of rum, sugar, and logwood fell off considerably, and in 1880-81, in which the Island was also visited by a hurricane. In the year under report the very large increase in the export of the four chief Island products as shown in a later comparative table may be accounted for by the drought of 1885, and the cyclone of August last, and the very low prices ruling for most articles, while the re-exports and exports to neighbouring foreign ports have been affected to the extent of 25,842*l.* by a temporary cessation of work on the Panama Canal, and by the epidemic of small-pox which unfortunately prevailed here, and which resulted in the observance of a stringent quarantine against Jamaica by the neighbouring islands, and particularly in regard to Hayti, and led to much inconvenience and loss of trade. The articles in which the principal decreases appear are sugar, 105,035*l.*; rum, 49,509*l.*; coffee 37,337*l.*; and pimento, 12,038*l.*; while fruit has increased by 51,316*l.* and dyewoods by 39,325*l.*

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The value of the several articles of Island produce exported bear the following per-centage proportion to the total export value:—

—	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Sugar - -	30·5	41·7	40	32	26	16
Rum - -	15·7	20·1	16	16	20	14
Coffee - -	20·9	9·1	12	7	13	9
Logwood - -	11·9	6·2	8	10	13	15
Fruit - -	4·	8·4	11	20	15	18
Pimento - -	8·	7·7	7	6	4	4
Other - -	9·	6·8	6	9	9	24

And thus, as the Collector General remarks, for the first time probably in the history of the Colony, has sugar ceased to hold the first place in our exports, such place being taken by the comparatively new industry of fruit.

The export of the principal staples in the last 10 years is shown in the following table:—

—	1876-77.	1877-78.	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.
Sugar - - hhds.	30,560	26,066	29,151	32,117	21,066
Rum - - phns.	20,646	18,115	18,798	18,586	13,962
Coffee - - lbs.	9,532,367	9,411,063	10,832,127	10,163,967	9,846,096
Pimento - - lbs.	6,670,603	6,195,109	5,881,176	10,215,479	6,058,364
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	47,697	36,070	53,653	48,024	45,450
Ginger - - lbs.	1,067,863	906,003	769,636	839,847	751,464
Arrowroot - lbs.	3,574	4,599	7,982	4,480	1,888
Fruit, value - £	39,451	40,175	51,365	51,295	44,216

(continued).

—	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Sugar - - hhds.	38,392	30,763	29,427	24,986	16,400
Rum - - phns.	22,742	20,065	20,964	20,805	14,763
Coffee - - lbs.	7,418,638	9,448,100	4,965,994	9,083,606	6,150,960
Pimento - - lbs.	8,514,517	9,551,630	12,372,663	9,794,078	6,019,097
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	33,409	33,108	46,724	57,533	65,062
Ginger - - lbs.	606,384	836,839	1,359,321	1,379,056	1,193,158
Arrowroot - lbs.	5,116	2,515	3,055	1,006	1,010
Fruit, value - £	124,269	122,962	253,021	131,660	231,588

The falling off in sugar has already been commented on; the decrease in rum was an almost natural consequence of that in sugar. That in coffee was due to the drought and to the very low price to which this article fell during the year, leading to the

abandonment of its cultivation by the peasants, who contribute a very large proportion of this product. The fluctuations in its price may be inferred from the fact that the description, which was selling at 36*s.* only 14 months ago, is now (May, 1887) quoted at 92*s.* to 93*s.* Pimento does not show much change. The increase in logwood is due to the continued demand for roots. The continued and very large increase in fruit is a most satisfactory feature, and it should be borne in mind that the export would have been considerably larger had it not been for the cyclone of August, which destroyed many thousands of trees bearing fruit. The extension of the fruit trade is largely due to the facilities now afforded by railway communication with Manchester, Upper Clarendon, and the St. Thomas in the Vale district of St. Catherine with the railway service of the United States and their proximity to this Island, there would seem to be almost an unlimited market for our fruit.

The exports from the Colony during the past seven years were distributed among different countries in the following proportions:—

	1879- 80.	1880- 81.	1881- 82.	1882- 83.	1883- 84.	1884- 85.	1885- 86.
United Kingdom -	67·3	66·5	62·5	54·46	48·4	37·2	39·7
Dominion of Canada -	5·2	6·2	12·9	16·66	13·4	5·4	3·5
United States -	20·1	18·9	17·8	19·07	31·1	42·2	44·
Other Countries -	7·4	8·4	6·8	6·81	12·1	15·2	12·8

The trade with the United Kingdom and United States, to which latter all the fruit goes, has thus somewhat increased in comparison with the year before, and at the expense of that to Canada, which had grown during the three years of direct steam communication with Halifax.

Agriculture.

There has been unfortunately a depression in agricultural operations, caused in one direction by the low price ruling for sugar. A long continued drought followed by unusually heavy and continuous rain also affected crops in parts of the Island from June to the end of the year, and the cyclone of the 19th August was seriously felt in the north-eastern parts of the Island, much damage being done to banana fields and cocoanut groves. The customs returns show a falling off of 2,894*l.* in the duty on sugar, 1,098*l.* on rum, and a similar amount on coffee exported, which must of course be taken as indicating in the main a fall, however temporary, in the production.

This is borne out by a decrease of 2,842 acres in the returns of land under cane cultivation, and of 1,835 acres under coffee;

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but as these and the following figures are taken from the amounts of property tax paid, the decrease may be somewhat attributable to the forbearance which collectors observe when the taxpayers have been visited with misfortunes of weather.

Other products which show a diminution in the acreage under cultivation are the following :—

Ginger	-	-	-	-	62 acres.
Arrowroot	-	-	-	-	3 "
Corn	-	-	-	-	177 "
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	36 "

There was an increase, however, in—

Cotton	-	-	-	-	34 acres
Cacao	-	-	-	-	327 "
Ground provisions	-	-	-	-	940 "

Cacao, it is observed, is yearly finding more favour with cultivators after an extended period of neglect.

Ground provisions, in other words yams, plantains, and cocoas, are (or were even more so when the canal works were in active operation) grown extensively to supply the labourers on the Isthmus of Panama in addition to the supply required for home consumption. There is with the negro no efficient substitute for his esteemed yam.

Of the fruit industry it may be observed that there was an increase of 244,422 bunches of bananas exported during this year over last, notwithstanding the severe gale of the 19th of August 1886, and as the weather to some extent also retarded this industry in the latter part of 1885 the increasing exportation must be put down to extended cultivation, and a greater demand. There was also an increase of 16,247,984 in the number of oranges exported, caused by the failure of the orange crop in Florida, but whether fresh orange fields are now coming into bearing to further increase the supply cannot be confidently stated. It is apparently to be ascribed more to the facilities given by the railway lines for the transport of fruit by recent extensions that an increased supply can be obtained.

Police.

The police force on the 30th September 1886 consisted of 1 inspector general, 14 inspectors, 4 sub-inspectors, 120 non-commissioned officers and 567 men, showing a total of 706 of all ranks, as well as a rural police force of 202 headmen.

The regular police were distributed as follows during the year :—

188 in Kingston, 444 in the 13 other parishes of the Island, and 55 at the depôt at Spanish Town. There are in all 96 stations scattered over the towns and country districts.

The services rendered by the constabulary during the year as compared with previous years are as noted below :—

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—	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information - -	6,053	4,849	5,994	{ 5,106	5,148
Number of persons apprehended on warrants	2,111	1,783		{ 1,394	1,758
Number of search warrants executed -	108	104	102	64	85
Number of persons summoned - -	10,648	11,253	27,545	{ 11,452	11,707
Number of persons sub-pœnaed - -	16,775	16,522		{ 15,112	
Number of seizures under revenue laws - -	904	745	663	587	333
Number of post-mortems ordered - -	464	457	287	270	337
Number of prisoners escorted - -	11,680	9,912	7,324	7,068	9,798

The criminal returns for the year show eight cases of murder, including one remand from the previous year. Of this number one was acquitted, two were convicted, two were reduced to manslaughter, one was discharged for want of evidence or prosecution, and two remained undisposed of at the end of the year. The cases of manslaughter were 19, with 1 remand from the previous year, of which 3 were abandoned for want of evidence or prosecution, 4 were acquitted, 10 were convicted, and 2 remained undisposed of at the close of the year.

Of other offences against the person there were 99 cases of concealing birth, 6 of which were convicted, and under "cutting and wounding" 266 cases appear in the returns, of which 142 were convicted. It is pleasing to observe that there is a decrease in this crime when compared with the figures of preceding years. Of "shooting with intent" there were four cases, which is an increase of two on last year.

Offences committed against property with violence show an increase on last year, and consisted chiefly in breaking into dwelling-houses and stealing, and breaking into shops and stealing, the figures being 94 and 69 against 62 and 43 respectively.

Of malicious offences against property, the crimes of arson and feloniously wounding horses, cattle, &c. show an appreciable decrease in comparison with such crimes in 1884-85, the figures being 23 and 33 against 32 and 44 respectively.

Offences against property committed without violence have increased, larceny of small stock, simple larceny and prædial larceny taking precedence, being 268, 1,511 and 1,114 against 189, 1,388, and 579 respectively in 1884-85.

The constabulary rendered good service in assisting to carry out the vaccination and sanitary laws, and seem to have fully realised the importance of these two matters at the present time,

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and to have been active in warning parents to take their children to be vaccinated and in taking proceedings against them if they neglected to do so. Heavy additional work was thrown on the police in carrying out the orders of the local boards of health in the isolation of small-pox cases. They also acted in bringing to justice persons guilty of cruelty to animals. "The Birds and Fish Protection Law, 1885," also received the attention of the police. Ten persons were summoned during the year for breach of this Law, resulting in eight convictions, but it is satisfactory to note that the law has been as a rule well observed and has had marked results.

Prisons.

The number of prisoners in custody in all the prisons and gaols of the Island on the 30th September 1886 was 803, an increase of 21 as compared with the previous year. The numbers in each of the last five years have been as follows:—

1882	-	-	-	-	-	938
1883	-	-	-	-	-	811
1884	-	-	-	-	-	750
1885	-	-	-	-	-	782
1886	-	-	-	-	-	803

There were 3,832 commitments to all the prisons during the year under review, and of these the large number of 1,073 were reconvictions.

The gross expenditure of all the prisons amounted to 16,777*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, and the gross cash earnings to 3,480*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* The estimated value of labour which yields no return in money was 2,505*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* and the amount of cash sales has been 3,110*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* The net cost of each prisoner has been 16*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, being a small decrease 3*s.* 10*d.*, on the cost in the previous year.

The prisoners were employed in brickmaking, lime-burning, quarrying stone and in washing clothing for the prisons and for public institutions. The value of the washing done being 639*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*

School was held regularly in the General Penitentiary for two hours each evening after work, and religious services were as usual conducted by clergymen of the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, and Baptist denominations.

During the year there were 32 deaths in all the prisons, one being an execution.

The death rate in the General Penitentiary was 36·87 per 1,000.

Vital Statistics.

The total population of the Island at the end of the year under report is estimated at 605,881.

The natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths during the year has been 7,771 against 9,058 in 1884-85,

and is considerably below the average natural increase for the past six years, as appears from the figures furnished by the Registrar General. Against this increase must be placed the loss of population by emigration to the Isthmus of Panama, viz., 2,547, leaving 5,224 as the actual addition to the population.

The rate of increase of population for the whole Island was 13·3 per 1,000 of the population. The rates in the several parishes show considerable variation, ranging from 1·5 in Trelawny to 27·1 in Manchester. The births registered in the year numbered 21,831 a decrease of 727 as compared with the previous year. Of this number 11,005 were males and 10,826 females, an excess of 179 males. The per-centage of illegitimate births was 59·6.

14,060 deaths were registered during the year, a rate of 23·3 per 1,000 of the population. This is an increase of 560 deaths as compared with the previous year. On this point the Registrar General again draws attention to the large number of deaths, 80 per cent., which were not medically certified. In the circumstances of the location of our scattered population, many of them at considerable distances from medical men, as well as in the disinclination or inability to resort to qualified medical men, and in the apparent widely prevailing preference for quacks, it seems inevitable that this proportion must for some time at any rate continue to be large.

2,390 marriages were performed, or 605 less than in 1884–85. This falling off is attributed to the large withdrawal to the Isthmus of male adults. Of the 4,780 persons married, 2,649, or 55·4, signed the register by making a mark, thus continuing to show a slight improvement over the year before, when the rate was 58·5.

General.

The year under review has been one of commercial depression, due materially to the low prices ruling for the chief products of the Island, but it cannot be overlooked that in this matter we are suffering in common with the other West India Islands, and are more fortunate than they are in possessing a greater variety of exportable commodities, especially as respects dyewoods and fruit, which materially add to the export returns of Jamaica.

Destructive storms and floods were experienced, and did much damage to the railway and to roads. The gales especially affected banana cultivation in the north-east of the Island, and consequently for a time checked the fruit trade while the latter destroyed large quantities of the ground provisions planted by the peasantry.

It is also with regret to be recorded that a severe epidemic of small-pox has added to the troubles of the year. This disease broke out in Kingston in February 1886. Up to the 29th September 1886 the returns show that there had been 712 cases in Kingston and 119 deaths. It had not at that date spread to any

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considerable extent in the country districts. Vaccination and re-vaccination have been carried out with activity, and on this and on the speedy separation of small-pox patients from the rest of the community we have relied for the stamping out of the disease, but unfortunately to some extent it still exists.

In my last Report I announced the formation of a body of volunteer militia; this force at the end of the year consisted of a battery of garrison artillery, a company of mounted infantry, and two companies of infantry in Kingston, of a company of mounted infantry in Trelawny, and of companies of infantry in St. James and Portland. The strength of the force is increasing, and it is animated by an excellent spirit, but in the country districts it is very difficult to procure competent drill instructors. The Kingston volunteer militia have made much progress and were inspected by the Major General commanding in the West Indies in the spring, when he expressed his satisfaction at their appearance, and at the progress they had made in their drill.

An increased postal facility has been given by the extension of the penny rate to places on the lines of railway recently extended, and the parcel post system which has been extended to this Island is another step in the march of improvement. Old residents contrasting the ease with which a parcel can now be got from England with the experiences of even 10 years ago must greatly appreciate its advantages.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition held during the year need only be referred to here incidentally, as an event bearing upon the fortunes of this Colony in common with other portions of the Empire.

The recent arrangements for water supply, made at the instance of the local boards, to the several houses in the towns of Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, and Savanna-la-Mar, whereby a plentiful supply of pure and wholesome water is readily available instead of the restricted quantity formerly obtainable from tanks or wells, or by carriage from a distance, has conferred a benefit upon a large number of people, and will no doubt be conducive to their health.

The Island was visited during the year by an officer of the Indian Forest Department, who had been specially deputed to examine into and report on the same question in the West Indies. Mr. Hooper, the officer in question, has made a careful and able report on the subject, which has been widely circulated with the view of eliciting public opinion and remarks on the several recommendations he has made before any action by the Government is proposed.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

King's House,
1st June 1887.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD

No. 4.

Governor Sir W. ROBINSON to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

St. Anne's, Trinidad,
June 30, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1886, and to accompany it with the following remarks on the returns it comprises.

Taxes and Duties.

No change was made in the taxation of the Colony in 1886. The export duty on produce, the proceeds of which are carried to the credit of the Immigration Fund, was by the Ordinance 19 of 1885 fixed at the same rates as were charged during 1885.

The amounts realised from this source were, in 1885, 19,984*l.*, and in 1886, 17,477*l.*, the decrease being attributable to the shortness of the sugar crop, which in consequence of the early setting in of the rainy season could not be entirely taken off.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1886 was 453,407*l.* 10*s.* 0½*d.* That of 1885 was 429,307*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

The principal sources of revenue during the past year were :—

	£
Customs - - -	169,892
Rum duty - - -	93,656
Immigration - - -	27,512
Land sales - - -	18,477
Licenses - - -	24,136
Taxes - - -	30,031
Postage - - -	5,833
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court - - -	7,321
Fees of office - - -	4,069
Reimbursements in aid - - -	10,947
Railway traffic receipts - - -	49,813

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Under the following heads the receipts in 1886 exceeded those in 1885 by the amounts shown:—

	£
Customs - - -	15,509
Rum duty - - -	7,596
Land sales - - -	2,894
Licenses - - -	2,383
Taxes - - -	474
Postage - - -	104
Fees of office - - -	532
Railway traffic receipts - - -	1,802

and under the following the decreases shown occurred:—

Immigration - - -	3,695
Fines, forfeitures and fees of Court - - -	364
Reimbursements in aid - - -	4,373

With regard to the item "Customs," the import duty received in 1886 exceeded the amount received in the previous year by 16,313*l.* and the enactment of the Ordinance 14 of 1885, which came into operation on the 1st January 1886, increased the receipts from export duty on asphalt from 1,573*l.*, the amount realised in 1885, to 4,109*l.* in 1886.

During the past year arrangements were made for the efficient collection of legacy duty with the result that that source of revenue yielded 2,285*l.* as against 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* in 1885.

The expenditure of 1886 was 443,503*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.* as compared with 443,920*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.* in 1885.

The principal reductions occurred under the following heads:—

	£
Establishments - - -	4,354
Miscellaneous services - - -	10,199
Railway working expenses - - -	12,396

The decrease in the cost of the "Establishments" shown above and that in the revenue under the head of "Reimbursements in Aid" is more apparent than real, and is due, as is an increase under the head of "Immigration," to a change in the system of treating the amount (5,100*l.*) charged against the Immigration Fund as a contribution towards the cost of the Medical Service.

With regard to "Miscellaneous services"—"Survey of Lands," which prior to 1886 was charged to that vote, and which during the past year cost 4,139*l.*, was made a separate head of service.

The expenditure in 1885 under the head of "Railway Working Expenses" was abnormally high in consequence of the heavy charges on the accident account and the purchase of new rolling stock. Hence the marked decrease of expenditure in 1886 for that service.

Under the following heads the expenditure of 1886 exceeded that of 1885 by the sums shown :—

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	£
Pensions - - - - -	5,488
Hospitals - - - - -	4,810
Conveyance of mails - - - - -	1,248
Postage - - - - -	3,567
Immigration - - - - -	1,715
Public works - - - - -	7,408

The excess under the first item includes the payment of 3,000*l.* to the late Mr. C. W. Warner, C.B., in commutation of his claim to pension from the date of his retirement from the post of Attorney-General in 1870 to the end of 1885.

The renewal from the 11th January of the steam service between San Fernando and Cedros and between Port-of-Spain, the Five Islands and Monos accounts for the excess under the heading "Conveyance of Mails," and the expenditure for "Postage" is unduly large in consequence of the payment during 1886 of arrears in respect of the preceding year for contribution to the Postal Union and towards the cost of the mail packet service.

In my Report on the Blue Book for 1885 I estimated that the taxation of the Colony per head of population for that year was 1*l.* 13*s.* 3½*d.*

Taking the same sources of revenue as representing taxation proper, viz. :—

	£
Customs (less drawbacks) - - - - -	158,769
Rum duty - - - - -	93,656
Licenses - - - - -	24,136
Taxes - - - - -	30,081
Fees of office - - - - -	4,069
Legacy duty - - - - -	2,285
Total - - - - -	<u>312,946</u>

and assuming the population of the Island at the close of 1886 to have been 178,270, as computed by the Registrar-General, the taxation of the past year was at the rate of 1*l.* 15*s.* 1½*d.* per head or an increase of 1*s.* 10*d.* over that of 1885, which is accounted for as well by the increase of the customs and rum duties at the end of that year as by larger importations.

It may be interesting here to note that the increase in the receipts for rum duty is attributable not to increased consumption but to the additional duty imposed by the Ordinance 22 of 1885. The duty on imported rum fell from 5,530*l.* in 1885, to 2,447*l.* in 1886, and the quantity of spirit of local distillation taken out of bond in the past year was less by 11,909 gallons than that consumed in the year previous.

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Local Revenues.

Deducting from both sides of the account the amount of some transactions by way of temporary loans from the Colonial Bank, the revenue of the borough of Port-of-Spain was in 1886 16,550*l.* 14*s.* 6½*d.*, and the expenditure 16,501*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

Its revenue in 1885 was 17,040*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, and its expenditure 16,635*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*

The principal diminutions of income occurred under—

	£
Licenses - - - - -	189
Markets - - - - -	118
House rate and arrears - - - - -	277

On the other hand the expenses of 1886 were less than those of 1885 under the following heads:—

	£
Lighting streets - - - - -	119
Scavenging streets - - - - -	292

The revenue of the borough of San Fernando in 1886 was 4,701*l.* 0*s.* 2½*d.*, and its expenditure 4,808*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*

For 1885 the receipts and expenditure were respectively 5,721*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, and 5,650*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*

The principal falling off of revenue occurred under—

	£
House rate - - - - -	187
Wharf dues - - - - -	348

In the expenditure of 1886 as compared with that of 1885 the most substantial reductions were affecting in the following services:—

	£
Schools - - - - -	427
Streets - - - - -	180
Waterworks - - - - -	274
Wharf - - - - -	329

The house rate, which constitutes the principal source of the revenue of the boroughs, was levied during 1886 at the rate of 5 per cent. on the annual rent or value of property within the borough of Port-of-Spain, and in San Fernando at the rate of 7 per cent.

In the former town this tax yielded 8,136*l.* 2*s.* 2½*d.* and in the latter 2,102*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

Public Debt.

No new debt was contracted in 1886, and existing loans were redeemed to the amount of 9,040*l.*

With the exception of that for the construction of the San Fernando tramroad, all of the Colony's loans have been raised

since the year 1874, and the amount repaid on account of these to the close of 1886 has been 43,620*l*.

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The Colony's present debt, 571,880*l*., bears interest as follows:—

337,900*l*. at the rate of 4 per cent.

230,480*l*. " " 5 "

3,500*l*. " " 6 "

Public Works.

The expenditure under this head in 1886 was 56,389*l*. 13*s* 9*d*. as against 48,981*l*. 17*s*. 5*d*. in 1885.

In those years the amounts were appropriated as follows:—

	1885.	1886.
	£	£
Roads and bridges - - - -	37,448	42,068
Works and repairs - - - -	10,110	13,514
Miscellaneous - - - -	1,428	807

Under the Ordinance 22 of 1879 the provision authorised to be made in the annual estimates for the maintenance of the roads of the Island is 34,000*l*.

The existing road mileage of the Colony is estimated at 992 miles, and were these well formed and macadamized or gravelled roads the amount of the present annual expenditure would probably suffice for their upkeep, but of this mileage only 204 can answer to the above description, the remainder comprising natural soil roads and bridle paths, of which the cost of maintenance is extremely heavy.

That very fertility of soil for which this Island is distinguished renders road-making and upkeep excessively costly, and during the latter half or rainy season of the year a considerable number of the local roads in the outlying and richest districts become impassable, entailing on the settlers the loss of crops which for want of means of communication they are unable to take to market, and in many cases are compelled to see rot on the ground.

The metalling of these roads is being pushed forward as far as is possible with the limited means at the disposal of the Government for so doing, but stone quarries are, comparatively speaking, few and far between, and the transport of macadam being thus necessarily expensive, as well as difficult, the progress made with such expenditure is not in keeping with the large and steady increasing alienation of Crown Lands in every direction.

Of the necessity for serious and early attention being given to the question of improving and extending the roads of the Island I submit there can be no doubt, and I know of no purpose for which the general revenues of the Colony could more profitably be encumbered than for making the requisite provision for interest

TRINIDAD. on and redemption of a loan of 100,000*l.*, or thereabouts, to be expended on such work.

Assuming that it be urged that the required annual appropriations for interest and sinking fund would press heavily on the Treasury at the present time I am convinced that the improved and extended facilities which would be afforded by the judicious expenditure of such a sum as I have named, would give a powerful impetus to the already large demand for Crown Lands and that the proceeds of their sale and the increase of the land tax, which would necessarily follow, would more than provide the fund required. If you should concur in this view, I believe the Finance Committee and the Council would readily take the matter in hand.

No new buildings of any importance were erected in 1886, although the necessity for some, such as a lunatic asylum and a female prison, have long been recognized.

The railway, though under the management of the Director of Public Works, constitutes a separate department. The cost of its establishment was in 1886 17,543*l.* 13*s.* 10½*d.*, and its working expenses amounted to 25,116*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

If to these be added the sum 32,611*l.* 10*s.* 16*d.*, appropriated for debenture, interest and sinking fund on the loans, the Colony's expenditure in connexion with the concern was 75,271*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.*

Setting against this the traffic receipts, which amounted to 49,813*l.* 5*s.* 0½*d.*, the account for 1886 shows a debit balance of 25,458*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, which cannot be deemed matter for congratulation.

The existing tariff is, however, generally admitted to be much too moderate, and that by which I hope to be able to replace it will, I have reason to believe, tend to more satisfactory results without pressing unduly on any particular class.

Legislation.

The twenty-four Ordinances, of which I subjoin a list, were passed in 1886:—

No. 1.—To repeal certain enactments relative to the office of the Receiver General.

No. 2.—To amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1885.

No. 3.—To amend the Law relating to savings banks.

No. 4.—To amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1885.

No. 5.—To amend the Ordinance No. 10 of 1853, intituled "An Ordinance for the regulation of Municipal Corporations in this Island."

No. 6.—Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance, 1885.

No. 7.—To define and enlarge the meaning of the word "University" as used in the Ordinance No. 6 of 1870, intituled "an Ordinance with regard to Education," and to extend the provisions of the 29th section of that Ordinance.

No. 8.—To alter the time for payment of water rates assessed under the several Ordinances relating to the Port-of Spain water-works.

No. 8.—To amend the law concerning the remission of penalties.

No. 10.—To add to and amend the tariff of wharf dues to be levied and taken on packages shipped from and landed on the San Fernando wharf.

No. 11.—To enable the Governor to lease certain lands reclaimed from the sea by the Commissioners for the improvement of the harbour of Port-of-Spain and to confirm the titles of the occupiers of such lands.

No. 12.—To assist in the maintenance of discipline in Her Majesty's ships.

No. 13.—For the further protection of certain wild birds.

No. 14.—For regulating the licensing of hucksters, porters, and carters plying within the limits of the borough of Port-of-Spain.

No. 15.—To amend the Licensing Ordinance, 1881.

No. 16.—To alter the time for payment of water rates assessed under "the San Fernando Waterworks (Repayment) Ordinance, 1885."

No. 17.—Appropriation Ordinance, 1887.

No. 18.—To repeal an Ordinance intituled "an Ordinance with respect to the Petty Civil Court in Port-of-Spain" and to make provision in lieu thereof.

No. 19.—To enable Raymond John Richard Warner, hereinafter called Raymond Warner, to light the town of Port-of-Spain and the suburbs thereof by means of electricity.

No. 20.—To amend "the Quarantine Ordinance, 1871."

No. 21.—To provide for the establishment of an inland parcel post.

No. 22.—To amend the Ordinance No. 11 of 1842, intituled "An Ordinance for assimilating the laws of the colony relative to larceny and other offences connected therewith to the laws of England in like cases."

No. 23.—To regulate the sale of stamps for the purpose of the Stamp (Fees) Ordinance, 1885.

No. 24.—For raising funds in aid of immigration for the year 1887.

Ordinance No. 2 was enacted to define the term "Vegetable products, unrated," in the list of exemptions from customs duties in the Ordinance 21 of 1885.

No. 3 enables the Governor to deal with unclaimed deposits in the savings banks.

No. 4 was passed on the application of the Chamber of Commerce, and authorises the allowance of drawback on the exportation of certain articles not included in section 4 of the Ordinance 21 of 1885.

No. 5 revises the tariff of wharf dues authorised under the Ordinance 10 of 1853 to be paid to the mayor and burgesses of San Fernando, and No. 10 fixes the rates chargeable on certain articles inadvertently omitted in the preparation of No. 5.

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No. 7 authorises the holders of exhibitions under the Ordinance 6 of 1870 to prosecute their studies at such places other than the Universities of Great Britain and Ireland, as may be approved by the Council for the management of the Queen's Royal College.

Nos. 8 and 16 extend the time hitherto allowed for the payment of water rates in the towns of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando.

No. 9 enables Her Majesty to remit penalties imposed on convicted offenders notwithstanding that the whole or a portion of such penalties may, by the law under which they are inflicted, be made payable to the informer or some party other than the Crown.

No. 11 was passed to legalise the action of the executive in granting leases of certain lands reclaimed from the sea in Port-of-Spain, whereas the law authorising their reclamation and vesting them in the Crown directed that they should be sold by auction or appropriated by Ordinance.

No. 12 was enacted at the request of the Admiralty, and places on the statute book of the Colony section 12 of the Imperial Act 18 & 17 Vict. c. 69., which prohibits the introduction of spirits into Her Majesty's ships without the Commanders' consent, and imposes penalties on persons aiding deserters.

No. 13 is intended as a further measure to prevent the destruction of the Colony's birds of plumage, to which end the Ordinance 10 of 1881 has proved ineffectual.

It is believed that the birds are killed, sent secretly out of the Island to the neighbouring continent, and re-imported as having been shot there. The Ordinance authorises the Governor to prohibit the exportation and importation of birds except to be warehoused as goods in transit.

No. 14 was introduced at the instance of the borough council, by whom the tariff of fares and schedule of loads was prepared. Its chief object is more clearly to define the difference between public and private carts.

No. 15 makes the duties on spirit licenses in Port-of-Spain and San Fernando payable to the Receiver General and Sub-Receiver respectively, direct instead of as hitherto to the stipendiary justices, to be by them deposited in the Treasury.

No. 18 was passed on the retirement of Mr. Justice FitzGerald and vests in the Stipendiary Magistrate of Port-of-Spain for the time being the duties of Commissioner of the Petty Civil Court, of which his honour was judge.

No. 19 granted to Mr. Raymond Warner the monopoly of lighting the town of Port-of-Spain for 21 years with electric light distributed by means of wires.

The object of No. 20 was to increase the precautions against the possibility of the introduction of contagious diseases and in other respects to allow the Quarantine Board larger discretionary powers than they formerly possessed.

No. 21 provides for the establishment of an inland parcel post and fixes the rates of postage. The details of the system are not embodied in the Ordinance, but power is granted for their

arrangement under regulations to be made by the Postmaster General with the sanction of the Governor, and to be submitted to the Legislative Council.

The prevalence of prædial larceny, from which the penalties prescribed by the Ordinance 11 of 1842 seemed no deterrent, called for more repressive legislation on the subject, and Ordinance No. 22 was passed imposing much severer punishments.

No. 23 provides for the issue of licenses for the sale of the fee stamps referred to in the Ordinance 11 of 1885.

With the exception of Nos. 19 and 22 all of the Ordinances passed in 1886 have received the Royal assent. The former has been re-enacted with amendments approved by the Secretary of State and stands on the Statute Book as No. 4 of 1887.

The maximum penalty prescribed by the latter for a first offence was considered excessive, and its repeal and re-enactment will shortly be effected.

Political Franchise.

The number of registered elections at the last general election in Port-of-Spain was 703 and the number of votes polled 62.

In San Fernando the number of registered electors was 118 and the number of voters 62.

If these figures may be taken as any criterion, representative institutions, of which the two Borough Councils are at present the only specimens in the Island, would not appear to be much appreciated.

Councils and Assemblies.

Mr. J. Scott Bushe, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary, was in consequence of ill-health compelled to go on leave on the 22nd November, and Mr. H. W. Chantrell, the Auditor General, who was appointed to the charge of the Secretariat, took the oath of an Executive Councillor on the 20th December.

Mr. H. Ludlow, the Attorney General, was early in the year promoted to the post of Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, and his successor, Mr. S. H. Gatty, was sworn in the Legislative Council on the 10th May and in the Executive Council on the 20th.

The North Staffordshire was in December relieved by the 1st Detachment East Yorkshire Regiment, and Major W. H. Daniel was on the 13th of that month sworn in the Executive Council in the place of Major Newman.

In the Legislative Council Mr. H. W. Chantrell, as above mentioned, took the Colonial Secretary's seat on the 1st December, and Mr. C. B. Hamilton, the Receiver General, who was appointed to act as Auditor General, was sworn as such on the same date.

Mr. Leon Agostini resigned his seat in the Council on the 8th July, and Mr. Geo. Fitt, who was appointed in his place, was sworn on the 2nd August.

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Civil Establishment.

As noted in my remarks on the preceding return, it became imperative on Mr. Bushe, the Colonial Secretary, who had for some time previous been suffering from a fatal affection, to relinquish on the 22nd November the duties of the office which for nearly 29 years he had filled. He died on the 24th January of the present year. By his death the Executive has been deprived of a willing and able adviser, and the Colony has lost a servant, the oldest in her ranks, who for more than 37 years had laboured faithfully and efficiently for her good government and advancement.

Mr. C. B. Hamilton, late Colonial bookkeeper in British Guiana, who was appointed to succeed Mr. Pyne in the Receiver Generalship, arrived in the Colony and assumed the duties of his office on the 6th February. On Mr. Chantrell's transfer to the Colonial Secretaryship Mr. Hamilton was nominated to act as Auditor General, and Mr. A. C. Ross, the chief clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office and Clerk of Councils, again took charge of the Treasury.

Mr. H. Prestoe, the Government Botanist, retired on a pension in October, and Mr. J. H. Hart, Superintendent of the Government Cinchona Plantations, Jamaica, was appointed by the Secretary of State to succeed him with the title of Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens. Mr. Hart did not arrive in the Colony until the 2nd March 1887, the department being satisfactorily administered in the interim by Mr. J. F. A. Redhead, third clerk in the Audit office.

Sir John Gorrie, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, who was transferred to this Colony on Sir Joseph Needham's retirement, took up his appointment on the 29th January.

The vacancy in the office of Judge caused by Mr. Justice FitzGerald's retirement on pension in October has not been filled, but many and earnest appeals have been made against the reduction of the Bench.

Mr. Ludlow, the Attorney General, who was promoted to the post of Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands in the place of Sir John Gorrie, left for Antigua on the 1st January and was succeeded on the 7th May by Mr. S. H. Gatty, formerly Attorney General of the Leeward Islands.

During the vacancy in the office Mr. M. M. Philip, the Solicitor General, acted as Attorney General, and Mr. G. L. Garcia as Solicitor General.

A few changes of minor importance occurred in the subordinate grades of the service.

Pensions.

The total charge for pensions, retired allowances and gratuities amounted in 1886 to 12,083*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* as against 6,595*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* in 1885.

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The former amount includes, however, as I have already stated, a sum of 3,000*l.* paid to Mr. C. W. Warner, late Attorney-General, in commutation of his pension from 1870 to the end of 1885, and another of 1,288*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.* for police pensions.

These latter used formerly to be paid from the Police Superannuation Fund, to the credit of which the monthly deductions from the pay of the force were carried, but the fund not proving equal to the charges upon it, it was decided that the superannuation of the men should be undertaken from general revenue, their contributions being paid in thereto under the head of "Reimbursements in aid."

Deducting these extraordinary payments for purposes of comparison, the expenditure under this heading was 7,794*l.* 18*s.* 8½*d.* as against 6,595*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* in 1885 or an increase of 1,199*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.*

The new pensions granted in 1886 were :—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. C. W. Warner, late Attorney-General - - - -	446	13	4
Mr. H. Fitzgerald, late Puisne Judge - - - -	780	0	0
Mr. H. Prestoe, late Government Botanist - - - -	220	10	0
Mr. A. Telfer, late Excise Locker - - - -	50	0	0
Mr. G. A. Harragin, late master of the "Pelican" - - - -	69	0	0
Mr. R. J. Daniell, late Government Teacher - - - -	36	0	0
J. P. Baptiste, baker at Leper Asylum - - - -	14	5	0
Total - - - -	1,616	8	4

In 1886 there were no deaths amongst the pensioners.

Foreign Consuls.

On the 8th September Señor F. Fortique succeeded Señor J. Machado in the Venezuelan Consulate. His exequatur, however, has not yet received Her Majesty's signature.

On Mr. Leon Agostini's retirement on the 10th July, Mr. J. P. Pollonais was provisionally recognised as Acting Consular Agent for France in his place.

Mr. Moses H. Sawyer, whose exequatur was signed on the 30th August, succeeded Mr. J. Towler as Consul for the United States of America, and on the 19th October Mr. T. W. Field was provisionally recognised as Vice-Consul.

The exequatur empowering Mr. C. Schœner, who had been provisionally recognised in December 1885 to act as Consul for Sweden and Norway, received Her Majesty's signature on the 15th June, and that empowering Mr. C. O. Bock to act as Consul for Denmark on the 19th August.

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Population.

The following is a statement of the births, deaths, and marriages in the years 1885 and 1886 :—

—	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
Births - - -	6,092	6,406	314	—
Deaths - - -	4,850	4,898	48	—
Marriages - -	580	574	—	6

These figures show an excess of births over deaths in 1886 of 1,513.

With the large increase in the birth rate, it is again my duty to point with regret to the decrease in the number of marriages, the result of which is but too obvious.

From the Registrar General's report for the year it appears that the illegitimate births bore the per-centage of 74·9 to the total number of births in the Colony.

Estimating the population of the Island at 178,270, the birth, death, and marriage rates per 1,000 were 35·93, 27·44, and 3·22 respectively.

In 1885 the same ratios were 35·43, 28·21, and 3·37.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

☞ The number of depositors in the Savings Bank in Port-of-Spain in 1886 was 2,508, and in that at San Fernando 1,249.

The deposits during the year amounted to 84,484*l.* 6*s.* 5½*d.* and the withdrawals to 74,537*l.* 9*s.* 2½*d.*

The balance in the Bank at the close of the year was 97,458*l.* 11*s.*, of which 82,936*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* was invested in sound Colonial Government and other securities, the face value of which was 84,956*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

The number of immigrants introduced in 1886 was 2,185, as against 1,706 in 1885, and the number sent back to India on the completion of their term of industrial residence was 544.

These latter took back with them as the result of their savings the sum of 12,109*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* in bills and gold, and gold and silver ornaments of the value of about 2,000*l.* more.

Education.

The attendance at the Queen's Royal College in 1886 was 65, and at the College of the Immaculate Conception 220, these figures showing increases of 5 and 27 respectively on the numbers for 1885.

At the Training and Model School for boys the attendance was 223 and at that for girls 134. In 1885 the same figures were 198 and 142.

In the Port-of-Spain Eastern School there were in the boys' department 145 scholars, in the girls' 126, and the infants' 94, making a total of 365.

In the Western School the number of pupils was 228.

The cost of these two schools, deducting the amount of the Borough Council's contribution (500*l.*) towards their maintenance, and of the fees collected from the scholars (236*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*) was 205*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*

At the San Fernando Boys' School the attendance was 73 and at the girls' 111. As in Port-of-Spain, an annual contribution of 500*l.* is made by the Borough Council for their maintenance, and the fees amounted to 47*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*

The cost of their upkeep in 1886 was 519*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*

The Government primary schools in the country districts numbered 53 with 4,212 scholars, of whom 2,583 were boys and 1,629 girls.

The cost of these schools was 6,787*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, and the fees collected amounted to 814*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

The number of assisted schools in 1886 was 64 and the attendance thereat 6,315, the boys numbering 3,213 and the girls 3,102.

Of these schools 25 were Roman Catholic with 3,336 scholars on their rolls, 16 Church of England with 1,457, 19 Coolie Mission with 1,186, 3 Wesleyan with 298, and 1 mixed with 38.

The amount of the Government's contribution to the upkeep of these schools was 3,894*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, apportioned as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Roman Catholic Church - " -	2,297	9	4
Church of England - - -	892	14	8
Coolie Mission - - -	639	14	4
Wesleyan - - -	55	5	4
Mixed - - -	9	7	6

In the Roman Catholic Orphanage and Industrial School at Belmont the inmates numbered 127, 62 being boys and 65 girls.

In the Church of England Orphan Home and Industrial School at Tacarigua there were 68—the number of boys and girls being equal.

Towards the maintenance of the first-mentioned institution the sum of 1,141*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* was contributed by the Government during the past year, and to the latter 606*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

In addition to the assisted schools above mentioned there were 13 coolie and estate schools established by the Presbyterian Church and aided by the Government to the extent of 250*l.*

The number of scholars on their rolls was 453—351 boys and 102 girls.

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I regret to observe that not only has there been a steady decrease in the attendance at these schools but that there has also been a reduction in their number.

In 1884 they numbered 20 with an attendance of 638 scholars, in 1885 they fell to 17 with 541 pupils and, as will be seen above, in 1886 they were further reduced to 13 with an attendance of 453.

The mission by whom these schools were established have done good work among the Indian population of the Colony, and I trust that this apparent contraction of their operations is not due to failure of well-deserved support.

The return shows the number of children attending the schools enumerated therein as 12,594.

Of the attendance at private schools no estimate can be formed. Exclusive of the salaries of the Inspector of Schools and his office staff, the masters of the College and the Superintendents of the Model Schools, who are borne on the fixed establishment of the Colony, the expenditure on account of education amounted in 1886 to 16,499*l.* 2*s.* 4½*d.*

Imports and Exports.

The trade of the Island in 1886 amounted to 5,012,654*l.*, the imports being valued at 2,503,514*l.* and the exports at 2,509,140*l.* These figures, however, include the value of the gold from the Venezuelan mines which passes through the Colony. Deducting this the imports represented 1,543,507*l.* and exports 1,560,336*l.*

In 1885 the figures were 1,512,314*l.* and 1,539,243*l.*

The subjoined is a comparative statement of the imports in 1885 and 1886 :—

	1885.	1886.	Increase.
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
From the United Kingdom -	654,704	666,499	11,795
„ British Colonies -	240,528	271,004	30,481
„ Foreign countries -	1,346,251	1,566,011	219,760
Total - - -	2,241,478	2,503,514	262,036

Though in excess of that for 1885 the import trade of 1886 was less than that of 1884 by 580,356*l.*

The import duty received in 1886 was 165,031*l.*, as against 151,800*l.* in 1885 and 169,828*l.* in 1884. Towards the end of 1885 the customs duties were slightly increased and some new ones added, and this will account for the comparatively small difference between the receipts in 1884 and 1886, although the imports of the former so much exceeded those of the latter year.

The following table shows the changes in the import trade of 1885 and 1886 with the countries, other than the United Kingdom, with which Trinidad most largely deals :—

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	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
From British East Indies -	53,968	58,282	4,314	—
" North America -	56,334	58,459	2,225	—
" Guiana -	37,846	29,199	—	8,647
" West Indies -	98,459	125,064	32,605	—
France -	85,288	105,871	20,083	—
Germany -	19,972	25,932	5,960	—
Spain and her Colonies, not West Indian -	9,593	9,481	—	112
Portugal and her Colonies -	4,907	3,622	—	1,285
United States of America -	394,496	351,951	—	42,545
Danish West Indies -	10,496	302	—	10,194
French " -	9,548	1,858	—	8,190
Spanish " -	10,792	6,897	—	3,895
South America, except Venezuela -	9,335	5,030	—	4,305
Venezuela -	788,454	1,053,327	264,873	—

From the sums, however, appearing as the value of the imports from Venezuela must be deducted the value of the gold from the mines in that country, amounting in 1885 to 651,398*l.* and in 1886 to 852,324*l.* Exclusive of that article the imports from Venezuela in 1885 represented a value of 137,056*l.* and in the past year 201,003*l.* or an increase in favour of 1886 of 63,947*l.*

Of the imports in 1886 goods valued at 1,113,020*l.* were liable to and paid duty, others of the value of 96,893*l.*, which were liable to duty, were warehoused for exportation and re-shipped, and the remainder representing the sum of 1,293,601*l.* were free of duty.

The subjoined table, distinguishing between articles the produce and manufacture of the Island and other produce, shows the exports in 1886 as compared with those in the previous year, and the countries to which the principal shipments were made :—

	Colonial Produce.		Other Produce.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	550,810	432,757	686,110	516,865
British North America -	14,009	14,089	190	10
France -	181,812	190,329	53,360	415,672
Germany -	17,691	13,748	9,811	3,059
Portugal -	786	4,092	—	—
United States of America -	544,171	576,608	20,287	57,760
French West Indies -	38,086	47,388	1,865	2,699
British West Indies -	2,167	3,965	32,431	29,309
South America, except Venezuela -	490	3,036	—	1,345
Venezuela -	141	454	175,671	168,131

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The falling off in the export trade with Venezuela due to the operation of the differential duty imposed by the Government of that country on imports from this Island still continues. In 1881 the year before its imposition—the exports to Venezuela were valued at 434,566. Last year as appears from the foregoing table they were returned at 168,131.

The following is a list of the quantities and value of the Colony's staples exported in 1885 and 1886 :—

Article.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
Sugar - - Tons	68,679	48,448	£ 684,675	£ 546,196
Molasses - - Galls.	2,416,761	2,220,288	45,885	47,285
Rum - - „	72,525	16,181	7,257	1,415
Cocoa - - Lbs.	13,729,565	17,913,037	385,901	531,378
Coffee - - „	20,270	20,052	420	500
Cocoanuts - No.	9,645,700	9,013,200	28,624	30,396
Asphalt epuré - Tons	6,781	5,416	13,456	10,883
„ raw - „	28,505	30,255	28,505	30,255
Bitters - - Galls.	32,240	35,355	32,240	35,355

The falling off in the export of sugar was, as I have already stated, due to the early commencement of the rainy season which necessitated a large portion of the crop being left upon the ground.

I have much pleasure in calling attention to the export of cocoa, the largest in the Colony's history, and in the rapid and steady increase, of which there is much cause for satisfaction.

Shipping.

The total tonnage entered and cleared in the three years 1884 1885, and 1886 is shown in the subjoined table :—

Description of Vessel.	No. entered and cleared.			Tonnage.		
	1884.	1885.	1886.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Sailing - -	4,335	3,907	3,625	308,500	294,914	280,415
Steam - -	626	677	807	740,459	774,207	915,661
Total -	4,961	4,584	4,432	1,048,959	1,069,121	1,196,076

In addition to the large increase in the tonnage of 1886 as compared with that of the two previous years there will also be noticed from the above statement the steady decrease of sailing tonnage in the Colony's shipping trade.

Of the sailing vessels entered and cleared in 1886, 1,439 were British with a tonnage of 120,705.

Foreign sailing vessels numbered 2,186 and their tonnage 159,710.

The number of British steamers entered and cleared during 1886 was 476, their tonnage being 654,211, while 331 were foreign with a tonnage of 261,460.

Of the total tonnage for the year the following entered and cleared at each port in the Colony:—

	Tonnage.		
Port-of-Spain	-	-	1,183,115
San Fernando	-	-	12,754
Cedros	-	-	52
Toco	-	-	155

Grants of Land.

661 grants were issued in 1886, representing an alienation of 11,123 a. 3 r. 39 p. and 36 lots of Crown land.

Of the above 656 were for parcels of land less than 100 acres, and 5 for parcels exceeding 100 but under 500 acres.

The districts in which the most extensive sales were made were:—

Arima	-	-	-	4,315 acres.
Montserrat	-	-	-	1,229 „
Chaguanas	-	-	-	1,166 „
Savana Grande	-	-	-	1,058 „

I subjoin a table showing the acreage of Crown land sold and the amounts realised therefor during the past five years:—

Acreage Sold.					Amount Realised.				
1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
3,126	6,190	6,010	8,171	11,123	£ 9,025	£ 13,068	£ 14,010	£ 15,563	£ 18,477

This large and increasing sale of Crown lands, while furnishing the Government with an immediate income, is at the same time creating a heavy liability for road making in the future. During the first three or four years of his possession the settler has little need of well-formed roads and is content to convey his ground provisions and other light crops to the nearest market over such bridle paths or tracks as may exist; but when his principal cultivation commences to yield a return, transport of such produce

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

as cocoa is impracticable or difficult over those means of communication, and a pressing demand for proper roads is generally accompanied with a complaint of ill-treatment and neglect. To these applications the Government, for want of funds, are in the majority of cases unable to accede. I have recently received a report from the Director of Public Works with reference to the roads of the Island, and I have appointed a Committee to consider not only the present road system, but the question of the possibility of preparing and working some scheme having for its object the concentration of the sales of Crown lands, for the present at all events, in such districts as are either already fairly provided with roads or as can be so provided with them out of funds at the disposal of the Government.

At the end of 1886 the number of acres remaining ungranted was estimated at 751,264, or somewhat more than two thirds of the entire acreage of the Colony.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The number of persons committed to prison in 1886 was 4,363 as against 4,411 in 1885, and the daily average number in custody was 586 as compared with 621.

Of the prisoners committed last year 3,632 were men, 678 were women, and 53 juveniles. Ten deaths occurred during the year, 9 being from natural causes and 1 by judicial execution.

During the past year the prisoners stationed at the Chaguanas depôt performed a considerable amount of good work in the repair of the roads in the vicinity and in opening up others into the forest in directions in which there was a large demand for Crown land. Besides growing the greater portion of the provisions and forage required by the department, a fair start has also been made at the depôt with several minor industries, and their extension is being carried on.

The total cost of the department, including the pay of the staff, was, in 1886, 10,106*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, and the value of the prisoners' labour was 6,634*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

The statistics of the hospitals and asylums for 1886 were :—

Colonial Hospital.

Admissions	-	-	-	-	5,020
Deaths	-	-	-	-	510
Discharges	-	-	-	-	4,423
Inmates on 31st December 1886				-	597
Per-centage of deaths to cases treated				-	9.22

San Fernando Hospital.

TRINIDAD.

Admissions	-	-	-	-	2,838
Deaths	-	-	-	-	247
Discharges	-	-	-	-	2,623
Inmates on 31st December 1886	-	-	-	-	210
Per-centage of deaths to cases treated	-	-	-	-	8'00

Lunatic Asylum.

Admissions	-	-	-	-	97
Deaths	-	-	-	-	48
Discharges	-	-	-	-	44
Inmates, &c.	-	-	-	-	321
Per-centage of deaths to cases treated	-	-	-	-	15'18

Leper Asylum.

Admissions	-	-	-	-	73
Deaths	-	-	-	-	21
Discharges	-	-	-	-	18
Inmates	-	-	-	-	178
Per-centage of deaths to cases treated	-	-	-	-	14'58

House of Refuge.

Admissions	-	-	-	-	102
Deaths	-	-	-	-	52
Discharges	-	-	-	-	37
Inmates	-	-	-	-	192
Per-centage of deaths to cases treated	-	-	-	-	18'15

The majority of these institutions, and notably the first two, were excessively overcrowded during the year 1886, and still remain so.

The gradual establishment of district hospitals will, it is hoped, tend to reduce the pressure on these two, but as I had occasion to remark in my last report, and frequently since to urge on the municipal authorities, the provision made by the Corporation for the care of its indigent sick is quite out of proportion to the size of the city. Seeing that no steps are being taken by them to increase the accommodation at their asylum, which is limited to 56 beds, I think that it is a question whether a larger contribution should not be required of them towards the maintenance of the hospitals in which so many of their population are housed.

Under its new committee of management and the general re-organisation of its administration the Public Library and Reading Room has considerably advanced in favour, the number of its subscribers in 1886 having been 200 as against 134 in the previous year.

*Criminal Statistics.*TRINIDAD.

The number of offences reported was 16,690, 3,911 being for offences against the person, 194 for prædial larceny, 2,268 for offences against property other than prædial larceny, and 10,317 for other offences.

Of these 9,941 were summarily convicted, 136 committed for trial in the Superior Courts, 3,808 discharged for want of prosecution or evidence and 2,805 dismissed on the merits.

In the Supreme Court 107 were convicted, 38 acquitted, 1 found insane, and 33 cases fell through for want of prosecution.

Meteorological Return.

The return for 1886 is the first that has been incorporated in the Colony's Blue Book.

From it it appears that the mean daily height of the barometer at St. Ann's was 29·833 inches, the mean temperature 77·1 and the total rainfall 86·82 inches.

This last record was the highest in the past 25 years and it is curious to note that that of the previous year, 43·22, was the lowest. The average annual rainfall during that period was 65·49 inches.

General Remarks.

The year 1886 was an uneventful one.

That tranquillity which has ever been the characteristic of the Colony was unbroken, and the public health was good.

In spite of the continued depression of sugar, the trade of the Island showed a substantial increase, and so far as the present year has advanced I am happy to be able to state that instead of a failure, the statistics exhibit a further improvement.

The depreciation in the value of Colonial sugar, brought about by the continental bounty system, which for the last three years has been justly but fruitlessly appealed against, had not to the end of 1886 led to that abandonment of cane cultivation which has been so generally prophesied and to which many of our neighbouring Colonies with fewer and more limited resources have had to submit.

The exports of cocoa are largely on the increase and Trinidad marks continue to command remunerative prices.

The growing demand for asphalt, the recent decision of the Privy Council on the appeal of the lessees of the other portions of the Pitch Lake against the claim of the Crown to deal with the 5-acre reserved lot in such manner as it might deem fit, and the early prospective termination of some of the present leases, will probably enable the Government so to administer this natural and inexhaustible source of wealth as to make it a factor of no mean importance in the revenues of the Island.

Generally, the statistics comprised in the Blue Book under review furnish, I submit, indisputable evidence of the number and capabilities of the resources of this beautiful island, and establish the soundness of its financial position. In conclusion I would

venture to express my opinion that with a judicious and, as far as possible, liberal expenditure on roads opening up the undeveloped and in some parts unexplored and possibly the richest districts of the Colony, there can be no fear as to the future, and that Trinidad will at no distant date be recognised as one of the most important and valuable of the Empire's Colonies in the West.

TRINIDAD.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
the Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 5.

Governor Sir C. C. LEES to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR, Government House,
Barbados, May 16, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to forward the report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1886, which has been handed to me by the Colonial Secretary.

2. The Blue Book itself will be ready for transmission by the next mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Governor.
The Right Hon. Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1886.

Finance.

	£	s.	d.
1. The balance on the 1st of January			
1886 was	-	-	4,473 17 9½
The revenue for 1886	-	-	136,286 5 2½
Making a total of	-	-	140,760 3 0
The expenditure for 1886 was	-	-	136,628 16 1
Leaving a balance on the 31st of			
December of	-	-	4,131 6 11

2. From the above it would appear that at the end of the year there was a balance in favour of the Treasury; but there remained liabilities amounting to 12,843*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, not including the salaries for December.

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3. The revenue, as compared with that of the previous year, shows a decrease of 9,471*l*. 19*s*. 8*½d*., due chiefly to the marked falling off of receipts under the heads of Customs and Exoise.

4. This falling off is caused almost entirely by the depression in trade which continues with increased intensity.

5. The revenue and expenditure may be tabulated thus :—

Revenue.

Customs.	Ram Duty.	Other Receipts.	Total.
<i>£</i> 82,856	<i>£</i> 20,255	<i>£</i> 33,175	<i>£</i> 136,286

Expenditure.

Salaries.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
<i>£</i> 67,640	<i>£</i> 68,988	<i>£</i> 136,628

And fell into the several quarters as follows :—

Quarter.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
First - - - -	<i>£</i> 39,555	<i>£</i> 84,412
Second - - - -	35,335	35,847
Third - - - -	31,038	35,301
Fourth - - - -	30,358	31,068
Total - - - -	136,286	136,628

6. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December 1886 were as follows :—

	<i>£</i>	<i>s</i> .	<i>d</i> .
Balance in the treasury - -	4,131	6	11
Loans - - - -	5,450	0	0
Due by parish of St. Michael - -	2,200	0	0
Due on land - - - -	586	8	2 <i>½</i>
Total - - - -	12,367	15	1 <i>½</i>

7. The liabilities at the same date were :—

	£	s	d.
Subsidies due - - -	12,843	4	6
Public debt - - -	19,800	0	0
Salaries for December - -	5,783	10	5½
Total - - -	38,426	14	11½

BARBADOS.

Local Revenues.

8. The parochial year commences on the 24th March. The returns for that date give the following result for the year 1885-86 :—

Revenue.

Balance on 24th March 1885 :—

	£
Cash - - - - -	2,239
Arrears - - - - -	13,485
Assessment for parochial purposes	28,355
Assessment for highway purposes	8,061
Miscellaneous receipts - -	8,425
Legislative grant for highways -	5,450
Total - - -	65,965

Expenditure.

	£
Poor relief - - - - -	20,049
Other parochial expenditure - -	19,062
Highways - - - - -	13,511
Balance: Cash - - - - -	2,057
Arrears - - - - -	11,286
Total - - -	65,965

9. The total number of miles of road is 479, showing an average cost of 28*l.* 4*s.* 1½*d.* per mile.

Public Debt.

10. The public debt, incurred under the authority of the Public Works Loan Act, 1881, was increased during the year by 800*l.*, making a total of 19,800*l.*

Military Expenditure.

11. The expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government for military purposes in this Colony was 54,410*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with 53,838*l.* in the previous year.

BARBADOS.

Savings Bank.

12. The following table gives the number of depositors, the amount deposited, and the amount in deposit at the close of last five years :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount Deposited.	Amount in Deposit.
	£	£	£
1882 - - - -	4,628	28,700	40,080
1883 - - - -	5,314	37,351	48,501
1884 - - - -	6,231	38,960	56,548
1885 - - - -	6,878	42,596	61,638
1886 - - - -	7,290	43,938	65,289

Thus showing the steady increase which has year by year marked the progress of the bank. The reserve fund at the end of the year was 3,267*l*. The annual return shows the following disposition of the funds :—

	£
Mortgages on landed security - -	15,961
English funds - -	14,984
Loans on security of parochial rates - -	2,720
Barbados Government debentures - -	17,900
Deposited at interest at Colonial Bank - -	16,500
Deposited at current account at Colonial Bank	395
Balance in hand - - - -	96
Total - - - -	68,556

Post Office.

13. The total revenue derived from this department from all sources was 5,749*l*., as compared with 4,665*l*. in the previous year.

The following figures will show the progress of this department during the last five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Increase.
	£	£
1881 - - - -	2,779	—
1882 - - - -	3,326	547
1883 - - - -	3,653	327
1884 - - - -	4,086	433
1885 - - - -	4,665	579
1886 - - - -	5,749	1,084

14. The following shows the number and amount of the money orders issued and paid during the year and the revenue derived therefrom, as compared with the years 1880 and 1885 :—

BARBADOS.

Year.	Issued.		Paid.		Revenue.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
1880 - - -	2,396	£ 15,367	871	£ 2,380	£ 159
1885 - - -	4,692	24,399	2,912	6,695	219
1886 - - -	5,758	30,386	3,911	8,704	304

and may be distributed as follows :—

Country.	Number.	Amount.
On United Kingdom - - -	4,106	£ 22,382
On United States - - -	929	6,091
On British Colonies - - -	723	1,963
Total - - -	5,758	30,386

15. A parcels post came into operation on the 1st April between Barbados and the United Kingdom, and on the 1st July between Barbados and the other British West Indian Colonies. The total revenue derived under this head was 52*l*.

Public Works.

16. The total amount spent on public works was 3,780*l*. 13*s*. 9*d*. consisting, with the exception of a little dredging, entirely of repairs to existing buildings.

Legislation.

17. From the opening of the session to the end of the year 32 laws were passed. The most important of these were :—

An Act to continue " The Poor Relief Act 1880."

An Act authorising the making of rural waterworks.

The Plantations in Aid Act.

The Curates Status Act.

The Cathedral Chapter Act.

The Clergy Discipline Act.

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18. By the first mentioned of these the existing poor relief system was continued for 18 months, the amending Act introduced by the Government having been thrown out.

19. The Water Supply Act granted a subsidy of 5,000*l.* per annum to any company which would supply free water throughout the island to a height of 750 feet above the sea level, to be delivered by 400 stand-pipes, such pipes to be placed on the spots chosen by the Government.

20. The Plantations in Aid Act authorised three Commissioners appointed by the Governor to borrow money on the security of the Government and to advance it under certain conditions to the owners of plantations on the security of their growing crops. Certain technicalities prevented this and the amending Act from coming into operation.

21. The Curates Status Act gave the curates by law what they had long possessed by custom, that is, independent cures and the position held by perpetual curates in England. It also gave them the name of "Vicar."

22. The Cathedral Chapter Act created a Dean and Chapter for the Cathedral Church of St. Michael.

23. The Clergy Discipline Act filled a want long felt.

Political Franchise.

24. There was a general election to the House of Assembly on the 8th, and the Session of 1886-87 opened on the 9th of February. There was a contest in only one parish.

Council and Assemblies.

25. *Executive Council.*—The Hon. H. A. Bovell succeeded the Hon. W. C. Reeves as Attorney General on the 1st July and was confirmed on the 4th October.

26. *Executive Committee.*—The changes in the Council affected the Committee also; in addition Mr. T. Yearwood was appointed in the place of Mr. I. P. Mason, resigned.

27. *Legislative Council.*—No changes.

28. *House of Assembly.*—Mr. E. G. Watts was elected for St. Philip on the 13th November, in the place of Mr. W. D. Spencer, deceased. Mr. C. A. King-Harman, Auditor General, was elected for St. Joseph on the 21st September, in the place of Mr. W. C. Reeves, resigned.

Civil Establishments.

29. The Governor, Sir C. C. Lees, K.C.M.G., was absent on leave from the 6th September to the 20th October, during which time General Sir C. K. Pearson, K.C.M.G., C.B., senior member of the Executive Council, administered the Government. Mr. C. C. Knollys, Colonial Secretary, was absent on leave from 1st

June to 6th October, Mr. C. A. King-Harman acting. Mr. W. C. Reeves, Attorney General, succeeded Sir C. Packer as Chief Justice on the 22nd July. Mr. H. A. Bovell, Solicitor General, was appointed Attorney General on the 4th October. Mr. W. H. Greaves acted as Solicitor General from 1st July, and was confirmed on the 4th January 1887.

Pensions.

30. During the year seven pensions, amounting in all to 69*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, were granted under the Police Act, 1882, one pension of 10*l.* by legislative enactment, and three, amounting to 1,627*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, under the Superannuation Act of 1870.

The pension list has been, on the other hand, relieved by the death of four pensioners, who drew 358*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.*

Population.

31. There is no registration system, and correct vital statistics cannot therefore be given. The number of baptisms during the year were 7,339, the number of burials 4,550, and the number of marriages 1,413. By the census of 1881, the population of the island was 171,860, and the excess of baptisms over burials during the five years since that date were about 16,000. The emigration of large numbers to Colon and the neighbouring islands must, however, be taken into account in estimating the resident population, which may be set down as about 177,000, giving an average of 1,066 to the square mile.

Education.

32. *Elementary Schools.*—On the 31st December 1886, there were 66 primary, 40 combined, and 93 infant schools, with an average attendance of 56, 61, and 58 respectively, or, in all, 199 elementary schools with an average attendance of 11,530. The 199 elementary schools are of the following denominations:—Anglican, 157; Wesleyan, 22; Moravian, 20.

33. *Second Grade Schools.*—There were five second grade schools at work during the year with 179 pupils, the largest, Combermere School, having 84 and the smallest, Pilgrim Place School, having 10 pupils.

34. *First Grade Schools.*—There are two schools of this description for boys, one, Harrison College, being in the town, and the other the Lodge School, in the interior of the island. The attendance at Harrison College at the end of the year was 148 and that at the Lodge 39. Both these schools are conducted by university men; and have boarding establishments attached to them.

The Queen's College for girls had 64 pupils. Its staff consists of one head mistress and three assistant mistresses.

35. Codrington College, which was founded in 1745, and is affiliated to Durham University, is supported by a legacy of

BARBADOS. General Codrington, administered by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and is the only collegiate institution in the West Indies.

Imports and Exports.

36. The values of imports and exports were :—

Year.					Imports.	Exports.
					£	£
1862	-	-	-	-	767,974	951,727
1872	-	-	-	-	913,142	1,067,612
1882	-	-	-	-	1,162,866	1,198,295
1883	-	-	-	-	1,155,841	1,141,133
1884	-	-	-	-	1,156,229	1,318,878
1885	-	-	-	-	890,690	1,003,893
1886	-	-	-	-	863,491	739,911

37. The direction of trade was as follows :—

Countries.					Imports from	Exports to
					£	£
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	302,763	190,240
United States	-	-	-	-	321,994	295,193
British North America	-	-	-	-	90,810	89,261
West Indies and British Guiana	-	-	-	-	66,413	154,248
Other countries	-	-	-	-	81,511	10,974
Total	-	-	-	-	863,491	739,911

38. The imports from Great Britain are chiefly linen and cotton goods, hardware, coal, liquors of all kinds, machinery, and rice. From the United States and North America, breadstuffs, horses and mules, butter, kerosine oil, corn, tobacco, lumber, and salt fish ; rice is also imported largely from Calcutta.

39. The export trade may be divided as follows :—

		£
Staple (sugar, molasses, rum)	-	571,816
Other produce of the Colony	-	8,554
Re-exports	-	159,541
Total	-	<u>739,911</u>

40. The produce or manufacture of the Colony other than the staple, consisted of fruit and vegetables, hides and skins, lime, matches, whale oil, petroleum, and a few other articles in small quantities.

BARBADOS.
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Shipping.

41. The following table shows the number and tonnage of vessels that entered during the year :—

Countries from whence.	Number.		Tonnage.	
	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.
Great Britain - - - -	32	116	Tons. 10,443	Tons. 160,556
United States - - - -	100	31	30,067	28,789
British North America - -	100	—	16,861	—
West Indies and British Guiana -	627	74	34,347	95,042
Other countries - - -	105	38	36,992	46,461
Total - - - -	964	259	128,710	330,848

The above shows an excess of 6,105 tons over that of the previous year.

Agriculture and Manufactures.

43. The number of estates in cultivation was 508, averaging 209 acres each. The estimated acreage of the Island is 106,470 acres, of which 100,000 acres are cultivated, and 6,470 uncultivated. The total produce was, sugar 45,768 hogsheads, and rum 270,067 gallons.

44. *Manufactures and Industries.*—There is a manufactory of sulphur matches in Bridgetown, from which during the year 2,652 gross of matches were exported. A small amount of petroleum oil is obtained from wells in the lower part of the Island; and a rough description of pottery is also made.

45. The fishing industry is very important. In it 366 boats are engaged, averaging two to three tons burden, and having a crew of three to four men. It is estimated that about 1,500 persons obtain their living therefrom, and that the annual value of the fish is about 17,000*l.* sterling. The most important of all kinds is the flying fish, the season for which lasts for about seven months, commencing in November. The flying fish season is succeeded by that of sea eggs, which also furnish a plentiful supply of food

BARBADOS.

Criminal Statistics.

46. *Police Reports.*—The number of offences reported to the police during the year was 4,389, an increase of 444 over the number reported the previous year.

47. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The number of persons brought before the magistrates' courts were 10,535, as compared with 11,473 in the previous year.

48. The cases were disposed of as follows:—

Convicted -	-	-	-	7,782
Discharged -	-	-	-	553
Acquitted -	-	-	-	2,126
Committed -	-	-	-	74
Total				<u>10,535</u>

49. *Summary Convictions.*

	1886.	Average for five years 1882-6.
Offences against the person - - -	2,290	2,491
Prædial larceny - - -	1,329	1,089
Other offences against property - -	784	711
Other offences - - -	3,379	4,030
Total - - -	<u>7,782</u>	<u>8,321</u>

50. The following penalties were imposed on summary conviction:—

Fines - - -	-	4,585
Imprisonment in lieu of fine -	-	1,369
Peremptory imprisonment -	-	1,249
Whippings - - -	-	239
Bound over to keep the peace -	-	340
Total - - -	-	<u>7,782</u>

51. *Superior Courts.*—The number of cases tried in the superior courts was 123, with the following results:—

Judgment for the Crown - -	-	74
" " prisoner - -	-	20
Fell through for want of prosecution -	-	29
		<u>123</u>

52. The convictions were divided as follows :—

BARBADOS.

—	1886.	Average five years, 1882-6.
Offences against the person - -	33	45
Prædial larceny - - -	—	—
Other offences against property - -	31	57
Other offences - - -	10	11
Total - - -	74	113

Of the 74 convictions the only serious cases were three for manslaughter, and nine for robbery with violence.

Gaols.

53. There were 3,402 persons committed to gaol in 1886 as follows :—

—	1886.	1885.
For debt - - -	121	102
For safe custody - - -	381	340
For punishment - - -	2,900	2,545
Total - - -	3,402	2,987

54. Divided as follows :—

—	1886.	1885.
Men - - -	1,622	1,480
Women - - -	1,656	1,400
Juveniles - - -	124	107
Total - - -	3,402	2,987

55. The daily average was as follows :—

—	In Prisons.	On Sick List.
Men - - -	270	5.6
Women - - -	215	1.4
Juveniles - - -	12	—
Total - - -	497	7.0

BARRADOS.

There were nine deaths during the year, seven men and two women.

56. The male prisoners are employed within the prison at a cooperage, mat-making, baking bread, and sweeping and cleaning the buildings and yards. The female prisoners are employed in stone breaking and preparing cocoanut fibre for bed-making.

57. Outside the prison the male prisoners are employed in the quarries, on the roads, and on various public works. The female prisoners are not employed outside the prison.

58. The net value of their labour was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
At the cooperage, &c.	-	192	18 1
Works, buildings, &c.	-	893	1 4
Bakery	-	970	16 0
Total	-	2,056	15 5

Meteorological.

59. Meteorological observations were taken during the year at Joes River House, in the parish of St. Joseph, at an elevation of 430 feet above the level of the sea.

60. The mean temperature of the air at Joes River was 76°; the highest reading, 86°, occurred in April and September, and the lowest, 66°, in March.

61. The total rainfall amounted to 88·29 inches, distributed over 200 days.

62. There were thunderstorms in July, August, September, October, and November.

63. The wind was chiefly from N.E.; but was from S.E. 17 days and from S.W. seven days.

Health.

64. The health of the Island was good throughout the year

(Signed)
Colonial Secretary's Office,
May 14, 1887.

C. C. KNOLLYS,
Colonial Secretary.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 6.

Governor W. J. SENDALL to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR, St. Vincent, August 6, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to forward the St. Vincent Blue Book for the year 1886, together with a report by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Captain Denton, in which the chief features of interest are ably and clearly treated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL.

The Right Hon.

Sir Henry Holland, Bart., M.P.

&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Government Office, August 4, 1887.

IN submitting my report on the Blue Book for the year 1886 I must apologize for the late date at which it reaches your Excellency. The delay is due to the fact that the resources of the small Colonial printing office here were entirely absorbed by the large number (40) of Ordinances which have been printed since the 8th March 1886, and by the quantity of returns which had to be prepared in connexion with the distribution of the Hurricane Relief Fund.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. DENTON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency

Governor Sendall, C.M.G.

&c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of ST. VINCENT for the year 1886.

Taxes.

1. No new taxes were introduced, nor was there any addition to taxation during the year. The export tax, which was suspended for 1885, was collected in 1886, and yielded 1,025*l.* to the general revenue. This tax has been abolished during the current year, and its place is to be taken by a tax on land.

The excise duty on rum and the customs duty on other spirits, which were raised from 3*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.* and 5*s.* respectively during the suspension of the export tax, were continued at the higher rate by Ordinance No. 12 of 1885.

ST. VINCENT.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The balance to the credit of the general revenue on the 1st January 1886 was 237l. 0s. 5d. The amount collected during the year was 27,467l. 7s. 5d., and 569l. 2s. 4d. was refunded to the general revenue from the Water Loan Account and other sources. The expenditure was 31,316l. 2s. 5d., or 3,042l. 12s. 3d. in excess of the amount available to meet it. To provide for this deficiency a sum of 1,600l. was borrowed from the Immigration Fund and 1,500l. was advanced by the Crown Agents. A nominal credit balance of 57l. 7s. 9d. was thus carried over to the 1887 account.

If the foregoing figures are compared with the estimates for 1886, it will be seen that the revenue calculated on was not collected by about 5,000l., but on the other hand the actual expenditure was considerably less than that estimated. The revenue for 1886 exceeded that of 1885 by 3,509l. 12s. 6d., but the falling off, when compared with the amounts collected in previous years, is very large. This is undoubtedly due to the unremunerative price of Muscovado sugar, which has caused proprietors of estates to abandon nearly two thirds of their cane cultivation. The depression in the sugar industry has increased the arrowroot crop, but as nothing but the best quality is saleable the peasant class, who in former years were able to find a ready market for arrowroot of any description, are now unable to sell what they make, as it cannot compete with the starches manufactured carefully and with good machinery on the large estates.

Public Debt.

3. At the close of 1886 the public debt consisted of 2,560l. raised under the Government House Loan Ordinance, and 5,000l. raised during the year to supply a deficiency in the Immigration Fund which arose in 1885. The sum of 841l. is due to the general revenue by the town of Kingstown on account of advances made to the Kingstown waterworks.

Although the Public Buildings Loan Ordinance, authorising the raising of moneys for certain purposes, was passed in 1886, no amount was raised under it until April 1887.

Public Works

4. The new Government house was completed, and on the 1st August Lieut.-Governor Gore took up his residence there.

Considerable damage to public property was caused by the storm of the 16th August and an Ordinance was passed authorising the raising of a loan of 1,600l. to carry out the necessary repairs and also to provide for the establishment of certain police stations. These works are still in progress, but will be completed by the end of the current year.

The other works mentioned in the Blue Book require no comment from me.

Only 1,338l. was expended of the vote of 1,545l. for roads and bridges.

Legislation.

ST VINCENT.

5. In 1886 25 Ordinances were passed.

That (No. 4) to extend the provisions of "The Yaws Prevention Ordinance, 1885," to persons suffering from leprosy has been disallowed, but the remainder have received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation.

No. 1.—To extend the provisions of "The Export Tax Ordinance, 1878," and "The Immigration Aid Ordinance, 1879," relating to arrowroot to all other starches.

This provision was found necessary, because large quantities of inferior arrowroot were exported as cassava starch, and the export duty paid on the former thus evaded.

No. 2.—To amend "The Kingstown Loan Ordinance, 1885."

This Ordinance simply amends "The Kingstown Loan Ordinance, 1885," in that it gives power to raise money for the use of the town of Kingstown at a rate of interest not exceeding 5 per cent. per annum instead of 3 per cent. as in the amended Ordinance.

No. 3.—The Hospital Ordinance, 1886.

This enactment repeals sections 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of "The Hospital Ordinance, 1879," and gives the Governor power to appoint a Board of Visitors for the Colonial Hospital. The duties of the Board of Visitors are defined in it, and authority to make regulations is conferred on the Governor by section 6.

No. 4.—To extend the provisions of "The Yaws Prevention Ordinance, 1885," to persons suffering from leprosy.

No. 5.—An Ordinance to protect the earnings and property of wives deserted by their husbands.

The title of this Ordinance speaks for itself, and requires no explanation.

No. 6.—The Towns Boundaries Ordinance, 1886.

Since the boundaries of the different towns within the Colony were laid down small suburbs adjoining the boundary lines have sprung up, and it was to render such suburbs liable to taxation for local purposes that this enactment was principally passed.

No. 7.—The Labourers occupancy of Land Regulation Ordinance.

This Ordinance provides a mode by which masters and their servants holding lands incidental to service may at any time terminate their mutual contract on giving seven days' notice. In the event of the notice to terminate the occupancy being given by the owner or master provision is made by which the growing crop may be appraised and its value paid to the occupier. By mutual agreement the occupier may be allowed to reap the growing crop.

No. 8.—An Ordinance to amend "The Medical Aid Ordinance, 1878."

By this Ordinance gratuitous medical assistance is extended to any poor persons who produce a certificate from the magistrate of the district in which they reside that they are unable to pay any fee.

No. 9.—To amend "The Immigration Ordinance, 1880."

In the Immigration Ordinance, 1880, a fixed salary was given to the Protector of Immigrants. The amendment contained in

ST. VINCENT. this enactment leaves the question of salary entirely in the hands of the Governor and Legislative Council.

No. 10.—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1885.

No. 11.—The Stamp Ordinance, 1886.

This Ordinance repeals the Stamp Ordinance, 1882, and alters some of the duties imposed under it. It imposes duties upon certain instruments omitted from the schedule to the repealed Ordinance, and improves many of the provisions relating to the stamping of instruments and the general working of the law.

No. 12.—The Magistrates Extended Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance, 1886, empowers magistrates to adjudicate summarily in cases of robbery and stealing from the person when the value does not exceed 5*l.*; in cases of wounding or inflicting bodily harm where no sharp instrument is used; and also in escapes by prisoners employed outside the prison walls.

No. 13.—The Coroners Ordinance, 1886.

This Ordinance repeals "The Coroners Ordinance, 1878," "The Medical Witnesses Remuneration Ordinance, 1879," and "The Interments (*felo de se*) Ordinance, 1885." The material change in this enactment is that the police magistrate of the district, who is ex-officio coroner, is empowered to dispense with an inquest if after medical examination he is satisfied of the cause of death.

Under clause 16 remuneration is provided for every person duly empanelled to serve as a juror.

No. 14.—An Ordinance to amend "The Trade and Revenue Ordinance, 1882."

Formerly certain duties in the Treasury could be performed by the Treasurer alone. This Ordinance extends the power of issuing permits, taking declarations, and clearing vessels to the chief clerk in the Treasury.

No. 15.—The Appropriation Ordinance, 1886.

No. 16.—The Post Office (Fictitious Stamps Prevention) Ordinance 1886, provides for the punishment of persons making, using, selling, &c., &c. any fictitious stamp. To have in possession any die, plate, instrument or material for making fictitious stamps, is also an offence against the Ordinance.

No. 17.—The Tonnage Dues Ordinance, 1886.

This Ordinance, repeals "The Tonnage Dues Ordinance 1882," and simplifies the mode of imposing and collecting tonnage dues.

No. 18.—The Registrar's Ordinance, 1886, repeals "The Colonial Secretary's and Registrar's Act, 1871" (sections 11 to 19 inclusive), "The Supreme Court of Judicature Ordinance, 1880," sections 18, 20, and 23, and "The Provost Marshal's Ordinance, 1882." By this enactment the offices of Colonial Registrar and Provost Marshal are abolished and power is given to the Governor to appoint an officer to be called Registrar of the Supreme Court, who performs all the duties, and is subject to all the liabilities imposed on the Colonial Registrar and Provost Marshal by the repealed enactments. A saving of 115*l.* is effected under this Ordinance.

No. 19.—The Public Buildings Loan Ordinance, 1886, gives power to raise a loan not exceeding 1,600*l.*, from which is to be defrayed the expenditure necessary to repair the damage done to public buildings by the storm of the 16th of August 1886. The cost also of establishing police stations at Peruvian Vale and Owia in St. Vincent; and Mayrean in the Grenadines, falls on this loan.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 20.—An Ordinance to grant pensions to Augustus Frederick Gore, Esq., C.M.G., late Colonial Secretary, and Sandford Arnott, Esq., M.D., Colonial Surgeon of this Government.

No. 21.—The Licenses Ordinance, 1886, considerably extends the system of licenses required to be taken out under Act 295 of 1868. Acts 244 of 1866 and 286 of 1868 (section 6, part of 13 and Form B.) and 295 of 1868 are repealed. Under the repealed enactments droghers, boats, dogs and guns alone were licensed and horses, mules, and carriages were taxed under the Income Tax Act (286) of 1868. The present Ordinance requires that carriages, carts, coasting vessels, boats, guns, horses, mules, asses, and dogs shall be licensed. It also provides that persons following the calling of auctioneer, private surveyor, transient trader or porter shall take out a license.

No. 22.—The Medical Registration Ordinance, 1886.

The principal reason for the passing of this Ordinance was the want of a law regulating the qualifications of chemists and druggists, and the practice of midwifery. When the matter was under discussion it was thought better to repeal the law relating to medical practitioners, Ordinance No. 16 of 1880, and to enact in one Ordinance all provisions relating to the qualifications required for the practice of medicine and surgery in its various branches. The practice of dentistry or dental surgery is also dealt with under this Ordinance.

No. 23.—The Magistrates Ordinance, 1886, repeals that part of the Magistrate and Police Ordinance, 1878, which relates to magistrates (sections 5 to 28 inclusive, sections 62 and 63, and Schedule B.); parts of Ordinances 10 of 1878, 9 of 1879, 27 of 1879, and 22 of 1880, are also repealed. By it the Colony is divided into three districts instead of five, and the number of magistrates thus reduced. The salaries of the magistrates are increased, but certain fees received by them under the repealed Ordinances are paid into the Treasury. In consideration of the increase in salary, magistrates perform the duties of registrars of births, marriages, and deaths, &c. A considerable saving is effected by this Ordinance.

No. 24.—The Liquor License Ordinance, 1886, repeals "The Liquor License Ordinance, 1883, and sections 58, 59, 60, and 61 of "The Excise Ordinance, 1885."

The principal changes in it from the old enactment are the increase of 10*l.* in the amount paid for a license in Kingstown and a reduction of 5*l.* in the cost of licenses for the small towns of Calliaqua, Layon, Barronallie, and Chateaubelair. A license is introduced for the sale of malt liquors, the object of which is to give the police supervision over shops where beer and porter are

ST. VINCENT. sold. The return required to be made by licensed retailers under the Excise Ordinance (No. 12) of 1885 is abolished, and in lieu of it a stock book, always open to the inspection of the treasurer and all excise officers, is instituted.

No. 25.—To amend “The Medical Aid Ordinance, 1878.”

Under this Ordinance the number of medical districts is reduced from six to four, and provision is made for the appointment of an assistant medical officer at a salary not exceeding 200*l*.

Councils.

6. There were no changes in the Executive Council. At the conclusion of 1885 the unofficial element was without a representative in Legislative Council, but during the year four unofficial members were appointed. In previous councils the unofficial element had only been represented by three members, as against the President for the time being and three official members. To meet the unequal division of votes provision was made for a fourth unofficial member, and Mr .C. J. Simmons was appointed to the additional seat.

Establishments.

7. The Government of St. Vincent was administered by Lieut.-Governor Gore, from the 1st January to the 9th March; from the 9th to the 20th March by the Governor-in-Chief; from the 20th March to the 29th May by Lieut.-Governor Gore; from the 29th to the 31st by Mr. Kingdon, Acting Attorney-General; from the 31st May to the 14th June by Captain Denton; from the 14th June to the 15th July by the Governor-in-Chief; from the 15th July to the 6th September by Lieut.-Governor Gore; and from the 7th September to the 31st December by the Governor-in-Chief.

Captain Denton acted as Colonial Secretary from the 14th June to the 15th July, and again from the 7th September to the 31st December. Mr. Attorney-General Choppin was absent from St. Vincent the whole year. From the 1st January to the 11th July he was employed as Chief Justice of St. Lucia and Tobago, and from the latter date he obtained leave, and did not resume his duties in St. Vincent until the 1st January 1887. During his absence his duties were performed by Mr. Alfred Kingdon.

Mr. H. E. Lynch, police magistrate of the Windward District, was on leave from the 1st September until the end of the year.

Dr. Arnott, Colonial Surgeon, was absent on leave to Europe from 14th June to 13th October, and his duties for that period were performed by Dr. Newsam.

Pensions.

8. St. Vincent was called on to contribute an annual sum of 58*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. towards the pension of Lieut.-Governor Gore; and the Colonial Surgeon (Dr. Arnott) was awarded a pension of 156*l*. 12*s*. on his retirement on the 31st December last.

Vital Statistics.

ST. VINCENT.

9. The population in 1881 was 40,500, and, as far as can be ascertained from the registration of births and deaths, it had increased in 1886 to 45,000. The death-rate for the year was about 23 per 1,000.

Immigration.

10. There remain in the Colony some 79 immigrants, who came to St. Vincent under an engagement for 10 years in May 1880. None of them are under indenture, but unless special arrangements are made they cannot be compelled to take back passage, or accept bounty in lieu of it before 1890. If they could be got rid of, a saving of nearly 200*l.* a year might be effected in the Immigration Department.

Education.

11. At the beginning of 1886 a wider application of the principle of payment by results was introduced. Although the system was at first opposed by the patrons of schools it has worked satisfactorily, and it is now generally appreciated.

In 1886 the grant-in-aid from the Government was 1,658*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* for 5,063 pupils. In 1885 the number of pupils was 5,603 and the grant 1,714*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

The slight increase in the total expenditure is due to the repairs to school buildings entailed by the hurricane.

Voluntary contributions to the amount of 583*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* were received.

Imports and Exports.

12. In 1885 the total value of imports was 101,032*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*

In 1886 it was only 91,185*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* Exports were calculated at 130,342*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* for 1885, whilst in 1886 the estimate is only 70,476*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, a reduction of nearly 60,000*l.*

Imports.

13. The amount collected under this head was 211*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* in excess of that for 1885. Whilst wages are so low, and so great a portion of estates hitherto worked remain out of cultivation, it is not to be expected that there will be any great call for the goods which are imported to this Colony. In addition in 1886 there was a very large crop of native provisions which considerably reduced the demand for breadstuffs, &c.

Excise.

14. The system of allowing distillation only under supervision was introduced in 1886, and in many ways the results may be said to be satisfactory. The revenue collected from this source

ST. VINCENT. — was 3,447*l.* more than that received for excise in 1885, but against this must be put the very large sum collected at the end of 1884 previous to the duty being raised from 3*s.* to 4*s.* 2*d.* I am afraid there will be no permanent increase in the revenue from this source until more money finds its way into circulation. This can only be brought about either by cane cultivation being resumed or by the introduction of new industries.

Prisons.

15. The only prison in the Colony was, during the year, under the supervision of the Provost Marshal. The number of persons committed in 1886 was from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. less than in 1885, and the daily average number of prisoners was about 7 per cent. less than in the previous year.

A saving of 115*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* was effected in the vote for prisons. Corporal punishment was inflicted in three instances.

Criminal Statistics.

16. There is a marked decrease in crime as compared with previous years. The number of persons committed in 1886 is about 25 per cent. less than in 1885, and the instances of punishment for serious crime are 9 as against 19.

The offences reported to the police or the magistrates fell from 2,049 in 1885 to 1,804 in 1886. Of this number 701 persons were discharged for want of prosecution. 244 cases were dismissed on the merits, 846 persons were summarily convicted, 4 persons were committed for trial in the Superior Court, and at the close of 1886 9 cases remained undecided. There were 69 summary convictions for prædial larceny as against 70 in the previous year.

Hospitals.

17. The daily average number of patients at the Colonial Hospital was 53. The new building is a decided success, and when the proposed Graham wing is completed it will, I think, compare favourably with any institution of a similar nature in the smaller West Indian Colonies. The number of inmates of the Pauper Asylum has increased, owing no doubt to the general depression in trade. The storm of the 16th August answers for some 25 admissions.

The Yaws Hospital has done a great deal of good, and it is to be regretted that want of means prevents the Colony from undertaking the care of a larger number of persons suffering from this disease. Generally the institutions are in good order.

General Remarks.

18. The only event calling for special comment was a severe storm or hurricane which occurred on the 16th August. Fortunately its duration was only about half an hour, but even in that

short space the damage which resulted from its violence was very great. It may be roughly stated that 1,866 dwellings, housing a population of about 10,000 souls, were either totally or partially destroyed, and as the greater part of these belonged to the labouring population the distress on all sides was considerable. Subscriptions to the amount of about 3,500*l.* were placed at the Governor's disposal, and the poorer class of sufferers were relieved to the extent of about 50 per cent. of their losses. The total amount of damage was estimated to exceed 11,000*l.* This hurricane was the more to be regretted as it occurred at a time when the revenues of the Colony were very severely affected by the low prices of sugar and arrowroot. From this cause no assistance could be rendered to the sufferers from the public funds.

St. VINCENT.

The eclipse of the 29th August was visible at St. Vincent, but at no period was there totality as in the neighbouring island of Grenada.

There is no doubt that St. Vincent has been gradually losing ground since 1883. The quantity of muscovado sugar exported, which used to be from 9,000 to 10,000 hogsheads, is now only about 4,500 hogsheads. This means a reduction of one half in the cultivated land, but I am sorry to say that the decrease in the amounts paid for labour is even more in proportion, as the extremely low price of sugar has caused estate owners to exercise the strictest economy in its production. Fortunately, although the market price was low, the crops of arrowroot and sugar were exceptionally good, and it is to this fact we owe the continuation of any cultivation.

To meet the wants of the labouring population who cannot obtain work on the estates, the Government are making arrangements to sell out in small lots the ungranted Crown lands, and two surveyors are at the present moment employed in defining the boundaries between estates and Crown lands, and in plotting out, in blocks of from 1 to 5 acres, lands to which the title of the Crown is clearly established.

Within the next two months a tract of some 600 acres lying at the north end of the island will be ready for sale.

(Signed) G. DENTON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

4th August 1887.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 7.

Governor W. J. SENDALL to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

St. Vincent, May 20, 1887.

FORWARDED.

(Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL

The Right Hon.
 Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., M.P.
 &c. &c.

SIR,

Government Office, May 9, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1886, together with my Report upon it.

2. I regret that, owing to the reduced staff, I have found it impossible to forward the books sooner.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
 Governor Sendall,
 St. Vincent.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELLYN.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1886.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

No changes were made in any of the above during the year 1886.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The following comparative table of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years will show what a serious decrease there was during the last year in the former and consequently how necessary it became to reduce the latter.

Year.					Revenue.	Expenditure.
					£	£
1882	-	-	-	-	13,661	12,610
1883	-	-	-	-	14,115	14,223
1884	-	-	-	-	11,370	13,481
1885	-	-	-	-	10,825	12,031
1886	-	-	-	-	8,813	9,529

TOBAGO.

	£	s.	d.
The deficit for the year 1884 was -	1,025	7	9
" " 1885 -	1,231	13	0
" " 1886 -	715	10	1

Total deficit 31st December 1886 - 2,972 10 10

Without the several items of extraordinary expenditure mentioned below, which amount to 831*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, the expenses would have been kept within the Revenue and the debt slightly decreased.

	£	s.	d.
Compensation for abolition of offices -	29	3	4
" for terminating lease of			
a police station -	25	0	0
Mr. Hooper's expenses on forestry service -	71	9	7
Colonial and Indian Exhibition -	157	9	0
Printing draft Edition of Laws -	548	1	6
	<u>831</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

Public Debt

The Government of Grenada extended for five years the time originally fixed for the repayment of the loan of one thousand pounds.

Military Expenditure.

None during the year.

Public Works.

The total expenditure during the year was only 371*l.*, and the following are the principal items :—

	£
Roxborough Bridge -	48
Roof of Government House -	121
Repairs to roads -	113
Repairs to buildings and furniture -	42
Keep of mules and cart -	47
	<u>371</u>

Legislation.

Twelve Ordinances were passed during the year, most of them relating to changes in the administrative work of the Public Service, in all branches of which reductions had to be made.

Other legislation was deferred pending the completion of a Revised Edition of the Statutes, and later owing to the probability of the union of this Island with Trinidad.

TOBAGO.

Councils.

Mr. Solomon Baber Isaacs, who had been a member of both Councils for some years, died in London during the month of January, and his seats were conferred on the Honourable John McKillop.

Mr. G. W. Gordon, Auditor of the Colony, was appointed an Official Member of both Councils in February, in the place of the Treasurer, which office is vacant, but he shortly after went on leave of absence, and his office was abolished in December.

Civil Establishments.

Owing to the great financial depression many changes took place in the staff of Public officers during the year.

Mr. L. G. Hay, the Treasurer, was appointed in January Sub-Receiver at San Fernando, Trinidad, and the duties of Treasurer were assigned by the Secretary of State to the Administrator.

The following officers were pensioned, and their offices amalgamated with others and thus carried on at a large reduction in cost:—

Mr. S. F. Titzck, Marshal and Postmaster; Captain John Spicer, Harbour Master; Mr. R. B. Anderson, Colonial Surgeon; Mr. G. W. Gordon, Auditor and Registrar of the Supreme Court, &c.

The duties of Magistrate in the Windward District were assigned to Mr. T. Newton Browne, Inspector of Police and Inland Revenue Officers, and the permanent civil and judicial staff now numbers eight in all.

Vital Statistics.

The health of the Island was as good as usual, with an average birth rate of 36 per thousand, and death rate of 21 per thousand, which latter is raised considerably by the high mortality amongst children under five years of age, caused by the carelessness and neglect of parents.

The total number of births was	-	-	675
„ „ deaths „	-	-	398
			<hr/>
			277
			<hr/>

Estimated population 18,500.

Ecclesiastical.

The grant in aid of the several religious denominations was completely withdrawn on the 15th of November, owing to the severe strain on the public finances of the Colony.

Education.

TOBAGO

The following tables give all the information that I have relative to the schools in this Island :—

Denomination.	1884.			1885.			1886.		
	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.
Anglican	9	853	£ s. d. 314 8 11	9	726	£ s. d. 334 8 0	9	706	£ s. d. 226 4 6
Moravian	6	717	184 14 0	6	537	198 18 0	6	456	131 18 0
Wesleyan	6	507	225 3 4	6	579	212 7 0	6	562	141 17 6
Total	21	2,142	724 6 3	21	1,892	745 13 0	21	1,813	500 0 0

Owing to want of means the grant had to be reduced to 500*l.*, and it was not possible to provide for the expenses of any examination of the schools by a qualified Inspector.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the exports was half of what it was in the preceding year. The principal export, sugar, only amounted to 811 hogsheads, about one quarter of the crop of the year 1885, and represented in value 6,489*l.*

The falling off of three fourths of the main export was partially made up for in the total of the general exports by the great increase in the trade with the Island of Trinidad, which took over 7,000*l.* worth of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and fowls.

The subjoined comparative tables show further particulars of this trade in live stock, which is solely with Trinidad :—

Table of Imports and Exports.

Year.	Imports.				Exports.			
	United Kingdom.	British West Indies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.	United Kingdom.	British West Indies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.
1883	£ 24,375	£ 22,531	£ 20	£ 46,927	£ 41,993	£ 5,742	£ 480	£ 48,196
1883	25,038	21,631	332	47,001	37,089	5,173	5,774	48,036
1884	12,946	20,668	42	33,656	26,090	3,218	12,320	41,613
1885	16,234	14,158	263	30,755	26,413	6,201	5,822	38,436
1886	11,655	8,827	17	20,499	8,538	9,791	547	18,891

TORAGO.

Year.	Horned Cattle.	Cocoa.	Cocconuts.	Powis.	Goats.	Hides.	Horeas.	Lime Juice.	Logwood.	Molasses.	Pigs.	Ram.	Sheep.	Sugar.	Wood, fuel.
	Heads.	Bags.	No.	Dozens.	No.	No.	No.	Puns.	Tons.	Puns.	No.	Puns.	No.	Ovis.	Cords.
1882 -	131	60	813,545	216	355	156	19	31	18	637	138	204	28	50,358	541
1883 -	131	40	720,609	148	273	192	29	14	13	837	72	100	14	50,853	500
1884 -	98	75	850,584	95	253	223	23	14	3	1,108	43	276	1	75,394	552
1885 -	377	59	567,979	184	766	266	181	7	8	788	298	220	83	51,946	565
1886 -	898	106	302,794	332	1,571	200	209	9	16	219	586	45	229	16,400	573
Total -	1,635	340	3,255,511	965	3,218	1,037	461	75	53	3,659	1,137	845	305	244,951	2,751
Average -	327	68	651,102	193	643	207	92	15	12	732	227	169	61	48,990	550

Shipping.

Year.	Entered.						Cleared.					
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.		
	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
1884 -	49	54,260	1,966	96	5,451	462	41	42,232	1,470	89	5,627	484
1885 -	49	52,696	1,996	140	5,280	599	39	38,712	1,236	144	5,375	630
1886 -	43	46,441	1,730	150	4,150	672	33	32,377	1,016	156	4,081	690
Total -	141	153,397	5,712	386	14,861	1,733	113	113,321	3,722	389	15,083	1,784
Average	47	51,132	1,904	127	4,954	578	38	37,774	1,240	129	5,028	595

Agriculture.

Cocoa planting continued to attract some attention, and the cultivation is undoubtedly extending everywhere in small patches.

It is hoped that the Ordinance recently passed which provides for the sale of Crown lands in small lots (5 acres) to the peasantry will, when it is put in operation, give considerable impetus to agriculture.

Gaols and Prisons.

A complete change in the officers of the gaol, and a stricter observance of discipline, has, I think, deterred a few of the old

offenders from returning again and again to prison, which accounts for a small decrease in the daily average of inmates in prison.

The daily gross cost of each prisoner was 10*d.* per diem, as against 1*s.* 6*d.* in 1885.

TOBAGO.

Year.	No. of Commitments.	Committed for Debt.	Committed for Custody for Trial, or for want of Securities.	Committed for Penal Imprisonment.	No. of Prisoners previously convicted.		Commitments for				Daily average in Prison.	Admissions to Hospital.	Daily average on Sick List.	No. of Deaths.	
					Once.	Twice.	Three or more.	Five years or more.	More than one and less than five years.	More than three months and less than one year.					Three months and less.
1884 - -	92	—	13	79	9	15	10	—	7	1	68	23.5	42	4.5	—
1885 - -	162	—	15	147	27	22	17	—	8	9	130	32.5	99	3.6	—
1886 - -	117	—	17	100	19	10	12	—	9	11	80	34	34	3	—
Total -	371	—	45	326	55	47	39	—	24	21	278	8.40	175	11.1	—
Average -	124	—	15	109	18	15	13	—	8	7	93	28	58	3.7	—

Criminal Statistics.

The total number of offences reported was considerably less than in the previous year, and no serious crime of any sort occurred.

Prædial larceny increased slightly owing to the severe drought and great depression in trade, which existed up to the middle of May.

	1884.	1885.	1886.	Total.	Average.
Number of cases before the magistrates -	782	909	856	2,547	849
<i>Number of summary convictions.</i>					
1. Offences against the person - -	261	150	80	491	164
2. Prædial larceny - - - -	25	42	36	103	34
3. Other offences against property - -	63	20	44	127	42
4. Other offences - - - -	433	251	213	897	299
<i>Number of convictions in the Superior Courts.</i>					
1. Offences against the person - -	10	2	5	17	6
2. Arson - - - -	—	2	1	3	1
3. Other offences against property - -	2	10	9	21	7
<i>Number of persons acquitted.</i>					
1. In the inferior courts - - -	89	101	78	268	89
2. In the Superior Court - - -	3	6	3	12	4

TORAGO.

Hospital.

In the month of May, owing to the depressed state of the public finances, it was necessary to limit the number of beds to 12, and ensure that they were only occupied by cases which might properly be called "accidents" or "curables."

Formerly the Institution has been made more of an "alms-house" and home for incurable persons to whom an expensive diet was given, when in most cases the patients would have been far happier on a monthly allowance of a few shillings in their own huts, free from the discipline and restraint of a public institution in which the average cost per bed was about 27*l.* per annum.

Rainfall, &c.

The drought continued until the middle of May, when regular rains set in, and the record for the year at all the stations was double what it was for the year 1885.

The average rainfall over the whole Island is considered to be 65 inches. It will be observed that at some stations the record for 1886 was far above this; but, speaking generally, I should say the fall was a good average one.

Places.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.
Logwood Park - - -	1'48"	0'86"	3'47"	1'39"	6'79"	7'53"	12'60"
Golden Grove - - -	1'36"	1'43"	5'21"	1'81"	5'30"	5'61"	10'33"
Babylon - - -	1'83"	1'79"	4'15"	2'19"	4'28"	6'30"	12'47"
Betsey's Hope - - -	4'04"	1'75"	5'20"	1'97"	4'03"	8'44"	14'89"
Florida - - -	3'69"	3'08"	6'51"	2'93"	5'39"	8'30"	16'19"
Kenmore - - -	3'53"	2'42"	5'72"	3'21"	5'12"	9'30"	17'62"
Glamorgan - - -	2'79"	1'11"	3'84"	3'28"	3'83"	6'06"	14'10"

(continued.)

Places.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Logwood Park - - -	7'12"	8'11"	5'67"	7'50"	4'89"	67'43"
Golden Grove - - -	7'95"	8'14"	2'45"	5'19"	6'12"	60'80"
Babylon - - -	13'01"	9'30"	4'93"	11'58"	4'04"	75'87"
Betsey's Hope - - -	9'05"	10'46"	7'73"	10'49"	6'47"	87'52"
Florida - - -	10'82"	12'48"	10'20"	14'90"	12'37"	105'96"
Kenmore - - -	12'70"	13'07"	10'13"	16'40"	10'70"	105'92"
Glamorgan - - -	8'30"	12'78"	7'63"	14'48"	9'68"	83'28"

General Remarks.

Owing to the continuation of a severe drought above referred to until the middle of May, the crop of sugar was the smallest on record, and, coupled with the low price, reduced the trade of the Island to a very low ebb.

It was necessary to make an effort in some direction, and the peasantry extended their trade with Trinidad in live stock, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, and fowls.

The question of the union of this Island with the Colony of Trinidad was again brought forward in the middle of the year, and pending the final settlement of that question all others were set aside.

Everything was at its lowest during the year, and the task has been to keep together what there was without any attempt at progress until better days returned.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

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ANTIGUA.ANTIGUA.

No. 8.

Governor VISCOUNT GORMANSTON to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, St. Kitts,
May 16, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1886, with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) GORMANSTON,
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the ANTIGUA BLUE BOOK of 1886.*Finance.*

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
47,451	11	0	41,055	0	0

Of the amount of revenue 6,000*l.* was an extraordinary receipt, viz., money raised by a loan for the extension of the waterworks in the City of St. John. Of this sum only a small part was expended in 1886. The revenue therefore from ordinary sources amounted to 41,451*l.* 11*s.*, 506*l.* less than the revenue of 1885. This Island, although financially in a better position than the other Presidencies of the Colony of the Leeward Islands, is still

affected by the dulness and contraction of trade resulting from the serious decline in the price of sugar referred to in my report on 1885.

The following statement of the assets and liabilities shows that the liabilities of the Presidency exceed its assets by 5,421*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, little more than one eighth of the annual revenue. In 1884 the excess of liabilities amounted to 11,591*l.* 19*s.* 0*½d.*

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sinking Fund Loan of 1880 - - -	924 18 11	Loan of 1880 - -	5,171 0 0
Sinking Fund, Waterworks Loan	2,177 11 7	Waterworks Loan -	2,500 0 0
Sinking Fund, Additional Waterworks Loan - -	150 0 0	New Waterworks Loan - - -	6,000 0 0
	<u>3,253 10 6</u>	Savings Bank Loan	7,800 0 0
Works and buildings, new waterworks - - -	1,790 8 6½	Immigration deposit account -	800 0 0
British Guiana and Windward Islands Post Office fees -	18 11 8		<u>22,271 0 0</u>
Jamaica Post Office fees - - -	8 9 1	Immigration current account -	265 3 4
Leeward Islands Post Office fees -	59 14 10½	Escheated estates -	177 4 0½
Crown Agents - -	1,329 19 1	Unrepresented estates - - -	41 1 10
Treasurer, cash accounts - - -	5,795 7 1½	Barbuda, Island of	546 10 3½
Treasurer, deposit in savings bank account of new waterworks - -	1,700 0 0	Ecclesiastical tax -	59 17 10½
Treasurer, deposit at interest in Colonial Bank -	3,800 0 0	United States Post Office fees - -	127 12 8
	<u>14,502 10 4½</u>		<u>1,217 10 0½</u>
Due by other Presidencies - - -	312 4 0		
Excess of liabilities	5,421 5 2		
	<u>23,498 10 0½</u>		<u>23,498 10 0½</u>

Trade.

				Imports.	Exports.
1886	-	-	-	£ 131,628	£ 159,686
1885	-	-	-	144,444	158,980
1884	-	-	-	169,500	177,807
1883	-	-	-	183,686	222,676

This comparative statement shows that in 1886 there was no recovery from the commercial depression and the decline in the profits of agriculture which were so marked in 1885. Of the staple product of the Island five sixths were shipped to the United States.

			Hhds.
1886.	Sugar shipped	-	- 14,467
1885.	" "	-	- 13,910
1884.	" "	-	- 16,178
1883.	" "	-	- 12,402

7,301 puncheons of molasses were shipped. Of these 5,710 went to British North America.

Agriculture.

The low price at which the growers of sugar were compelled throughout 1886 to sell that staple and only important product of the Island hardly allowed even the estates of independent and comparatively wealthy proprietors to be worked at a considerable profit, and for the many owners of sugar properties, who are working with borrowed money, for which assistance they pay heavily in many ways, the struggle has been most severe, ending in some cases in failure.

A sugar estate in a British West India island is not simply an agricultural enterprise; it is also a manufacturing establishment, and it is not always the mere agriculturist who best succeeds in the business.

During the last few years several properties have been acquired by prosperous commercial men resident here. These proprietors being on the spot exercise a close control over the management, and are able to check unnecessary and ill-advised expenditure and waste; and their command of money and mercantile arrangements and facilities obtain for the estate, at a reasonable cost, the numerous supplies and variety of materials almost daily required.

Legislation.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands met in Antigua on the 9th of January and remained in session until the 21st of that month, and there was a short second session of the Council from the 29th of May to the 1st of June.

In the first session there was passed "An Act (No. 2 of 1886, "Leeward Islands) to bring into force a system of title to land "by registration, and to provide for the sale of encumbered "estates." This Act was amended in the second session of the Council.

As far back as 1873 an Act similar in its main features to the Act of 1886 was passed, but it being in every respect a permissive measure it remained altogether inoperative. The obligation of coming under the Act of 1886 imposed on parties wishing or requiring to have dealings in land, and the advantages offered

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by a more simple system of title and record, promise to bring the measure, under the conditions it lays down, into immediate and satisfactory operation throughout the Leeward Islands.

Another important Act, No. 11 of 1886, Leeward Islands, was passed in the same session, *i.e.*, "An Act to provide for the better administration of the Post Offices of the Colony, and to repeal the laws heretofore in force for the regulation of Post Offices." For the various local Post Office Acts in the different Presidencies has been established one Federal Act.

In the local Legislature of the Presidency eleven Acts were passed, none of which call for particular notice or remark.

Education.

998*l.* was expended in grants in aid to schools in 1886. Of the 36 schools the highest place was taken by the Town Moravian school, which earned 76*l.* 2*s.*

There is in the list of schools ranking in the first and second classes a much larger proportion of Moravian than of schools of the Anglican and Wesleyan denominations. Of the eleven Moravian schools only two are in the third class. The aggregate daily average attendance is 2,300 out of the 4,000 children attending the schools aided by the Government.

Public Works.

The construction of a new reservoir of the capacity of 3,000,000 gallons, to render the supply of water to the City of St. John more secure in seasons of drought, and more complete at all times, was commenced and is still in progress. The present reservoir, which will be connected with the new one, contains only 500,000 gallons, a very inadequate reserve in this climate for the water supply of a town of ten thousand inhabitants.

Provision is made for the execution of the work in question by debentures for 6,000*l.* taken up locally, the charges for interest and sinking fund being met by a permanent tax on real property in the city, for waterworks purposes, and by rates charged for the supply of water.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
Colonial Secretary of the
Leeward Islands and President
and Island Secretary of
Antigua.

May 10th, 1887.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 9.

Administrator NEALE PORTER to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Antigua,

SIR,

July 18, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of the Presidency of Montserrat for the year 1886, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,

The Right Hon.

Administering the Government.

Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

President's Office, Montserrat,

SIR,

July 4, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Presidency for the year 1886, and to submit the following report thereon :—

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue of the year amounted to 5,022*l.* 16*s.* 3½*d.*, showing a decrease as compared with 1885 of 206*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.*

3. The chief item in which this decrease occurred was the excise duty on rum, which produced 404*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, or 104*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* less than in the previous year. This falling off was partly met by an increase of 38*l.* 10*s.* in the duty on imported rum, leaving a net decrease of 66*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* in the duties on this article.

4. The duties received on rum during the past four years have been as follows :—

					Excise.	Import.	Total.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1883	-	-	-	-	566 16 1	240 10 3	807 6 4
1884	-	-	-	-	495 15 0	240 18 0	736 13 0
1885	-	-	-	-	509 8 5	209 3 7	718 12 0
1886	-	-	-	-	404 14 8	247 13 7	652 8 3

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The falling off may be accounted for to some extent by diminished consumption consequent on the general depression of trade, but the system of collection of the excise duty is defective, and the adoption of a system similar to that in force in St. Lucia, under which stills are licensed and distillation is only allowed under the supervision of a revenue officer, would, I am confident, result in a considerable increase of revenue under this head.

5. The receipts from stamps, licenses, fees, post office, and smaller sources of revenue show a decrease as compared with 1885.

6. The import duties, exclusive of those received on rum, show a slight increase over the receipts of 1885, but are much below the receipts of the two previous years, the amounts realised having been as follows :—

					£	s.	d.
1883	-	-	-	-	2,535	18	11
1884	-	-	-	-	2,532	14	8
1885	-	-	-	-	1,835	15	11
1886	-	-	-	-	1,841	6	7

The diminution in these receipts is to be attributed to the depression in trade and agriculture consequent upon the low price of sugar.

7. There was a small increase in the export duties, which realised 391*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, against 369*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* in 1885. The loss under this head in consequence of the small crop of sugar was made up for by the increased export of lime-juice.

8. The expenditure amounted to 5,669*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, or 107*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* more than that of the previous year. The principal items in which there was an increase were roads and public works, while there was a decrease under the head of pensions and in the expenditure on waterworks.

9. The excess of expenditure over revenue was 646*l.* 7*s.* 4½*d.*, while the net available balance on 1st January 1886 was 610*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; there was consequently at the close of the year a deficit of 36*l.* 3*s.* 6½*d.*

Public Works.

10. The principal work carried out during the year was the restoration of the public jetty at a cost of 296*l.* 2*s.*, of which 280*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* was expended in 1886. The slaughter-house in the public market was also rebuilt at a cost of 31*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

11. The sum of 43*l.* 17*s.* 6½*d.* was expended in petty repairs and incidental expenses connected with the public buildings generally. These are in a bad state of repair, and will shortly require considerable expenditure for their restoration.

12. The expenditure on roads was 128*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* in excess of that of 1885. 120*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* was expended in the erection of a bridge and two retaining walls, forming permanent improvements to an important section of road. The public roads generally are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Legislation.

13. The following are the principal Ordinances passed during the year :— MONTERRAT.

The Treasury Regulation Ordinance, No. 2, of 1886. This Ordinance was passed to enable the Governor to give effect to recommendations for securing greater efficiency made by a Commission appointed by his Excellency in July 1886 to inquire into the working of the Treasury department.

The Import and Export Duty Ordinances, Nos. 3 and 4. The principal object of these Ordinances was to adapt the system of collection of import and export duties to the alteration of circumstances caused by the transfer of traffic from sailing vessels to steamers, which has taken place since the passing of the Ordinances previously in force. Amendments on other points in which the Ordinances seemed to be defective were also made, and the following alterations in the rates of duty were effected:—The import duty on cigars was increased from 8*d.* to 10*d.* per lb., the latter being the rate charged on manufactured tobacco; the duty on kerosine oil from 1*d.* to 2*d.* per gallon; and that on cordials and liqueurs from 2*s.* to 3*s.* per gallon. The duty on cypress shingles 4 inches wide was reduced from 4*s.* to 3*s.* per 1,000, those of greater width remaining charged with the former rate. The duty on rum was made payable in proportion to its strength by the hydrometer, the use of the bubble being discontinued, and the duty on gin in casks was also made payable according to strength. The export duty on cattle was reduced from 8*s.* to 4*s.* per head. The former duty was high in comparison with the duties levied on other articles of export, and was a discouragement to the exportation of cattle, the local price of which has, in consequence of the general depression, fallen considerably. The duty on sugar shipped in packages other than hogsheads, tierces, or barrels was increased from 1½*d.* to 2*d.* per cwt., so as to equalise it with the duty on sugar shipped in those packages.

The Excise Duty Amendment Ordinance, No. 5, makes the same amendment in the excise duty on rum as is effected in the import duty on that article by the Ordinance above referred to.

The Waterworks Extension Ordinance, No. 6, authorises the Waterworks Commissioners to supply water to the buildings used as a poor house and hospital, which are beyond the radius fixed by the Waterworks Ordinance of 1879. This work, for which 185*l.* was voted in the Estimates for 1887, is now being carried out, and on its completion a saving of 10*l.* a year will be effected by the discontinuance of the payment of that amount for the present supply, which is liable to contamination, being brought in an open canal from a stream at some distance from the buildings.

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Population.

14. The population at the census of 1881 was 10,083. The natural increase of population since that period is shown by the following table :—

Year.	No. of Births.	No. of Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1882 - - -	434	221	213
1883 - - -	494	201	293
1884 - - -	501	253	248
1885 - - -	520	241	279
1886 - - -	449	205	244
Total - - -	2,398	1,121	1,277

15. The birth rate of 1886 was 40·39 and the death rate 18·44 per 1,000 of the estimated population on 1st January 1886.

Savings Bank.

16. The following return shows the increase in the business of this institution during the past five years :—

	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
31st December 1882 - - -	31	£ s. d. 580 14 4
„ „ 1883 - - -	47	1,154 16 9
„ „ 1884 - - -	54	1,397 4 4
„ „ 1885 - - -	57	1,310 12 0
„ „ 1886 - - -	75	2,193 12 1

17. Interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum is allowed to depositors. The funds of the Savings Bank were up to last year invested in the Colonial Bank at St. Kitt's at the same rate of interest. In 1886 the Governor sanctioned the withdrawal of the sums lodged in the Colonial Bank, amounting to 1,050*l.* and their remittance, with other funds of the Savings Bank, to the Crown Agents for investment in England. The sum of 1,959*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* was forwarded to the Crown Agents, and it is anticipated that the investments will yield a return of from 3½ to 4 per cent. per annum.

Education.

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18. The average attendance at schools receiving Government grants in aid fell from 787 in 1885 to 731 in 1886, and the grants in aid were reduced from 300*l.* 13*s.* to 288*l.* 17*s.* The number of scholars on the books of these schools is returned by the managers at 1,295, their total cost at 488*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, and the amount of school fees received at 58*l.* 5*s.*

19. Two schools are included in the Blue Book returns which are not in receipt of Government aid; the number of scholars at these is returned at 160, their cost at 40*l.* 15*s.*, and the amount of school fees received at 6*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*

Imports and Exports.

20. It will be seen from the following table that the value of imports in 1886 shows a slight improvement as compared with 1885, but falls considerably short of the figures of the three previous years.

				Imports from			
				United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
				£	£	£	£
1882	-	-	-	8,217	19,052	1,511	28,780
1883	-	-	-	12,778	15,573	905	29,256
1884	-	-	-	8,110	13,009	2,479	25,598
1885	-	-	-	6,889	11,251	2,496	20,636
1886	-	-	-	7,416	10,878	2,793	21,087

21. The value of the exports was as follows :—

				Exports to			
				United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
				£	£	£	£
1882	-	-	-	33,004	3,342	1,774	38,120
1883	-	-	-	24,612	3,577	3,305	31,494
1884	-	-	-	13,761	1,293	17,624	32,678
1885	-	-	-	8,555	1,254	11,475	16,284
1886	-	-	-	8,885	750	11,809	20,944

MONTERRAT. 22. The exports of sugar for the past five years are shown in the following table :—

— — —	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Bags.	Total, reduced to cwt.
1882 - -	18	3,028	2,394	—	42,645
1883 - -	9	2,030	2,434	154	30,992
1884 - -	—	2,494	3,068	98	37,843
1885 - -	—	1,647	2,980	1,061	29,866
1886 - -	6	1,321	2,778	39	23,002

23. The sugar crop of 1886 was the smallest on record for many years. As stated in Mr. Meade's report on the Blue Book of 1885, cultivation had been greatly curtailed on many estates, while several others, then passing through the Incumbered Estates' Court, had been allowed to go almost entirely out of cultivation. The same causes affected the crop of 1886, which was further reduced in consequence of unfavourable seasons. A considerable improvement, however, took place in 1886, the effects of which have been shown in the present year. In many of the cases in which cultivation had been curtailed it was resumed and in some instances extended; the estates sold in the Incumbered Estates' Court having passed into new hands were again brought into a good state of cultivation; and the rainfall of the year was abundant. The crop of 1887 will consequently be considerably above the average.

24. The low prices at which the estates above referred to were sold, while showing the extent to which this class of property has been depreciated in value by the state of the sugar market, afford on the other hand reasonable ground to anticipate that their cultivation will produce a fair per-centage of profit on the amounts invested in them by their new owners.

25. Of the sugar exported in 1886, 22,369 cwt. went to the United States, 552 cwt. to the United Kingdom, and 81 cwt. to neighbouring islands.

26. 353 puncheons of molasses were exported during the year, of which 340 went to Martinique, where this article is largely purchased for distillation into rum.

27. The lime crop was above the average, as will be seen from the following table of exports during the last five years :—

— — —	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Lime juice, raw - - gallons	44,880	132,840	133,139	15,275	145,440
„ concentrated „	9,540	9,960	13,966	1,000	7,080
Lime essence - - cases	5	37	26	4	26
Limes, pickled - - barrels	150	50	—	47	80
Limes, fresh - - boxes	216	144	953	822	2,057

28. A noticeable feature is the increase in the exportation of the fresh lime fruit, which goes in about equal proportions to England and the United States. MONTERRAT.

Shipping.

29. The following statement shows the shipping entered and cleared during the past five years :—

—	Steamers.				Sailing Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1882 - - -	10	8,418	6	5,130	236	7,749	290	7,306
1883 - - -	25	21,973	23	19,515	235	7,251	236	7,396
1884 - - -	34	31,294	34	31,236	255	6,394	278	6,740
1885 - - -	73	101,360	73	101,312	309	7,483	309	7,465
1886 - - -	113	164,359	109	143,760	239	6,405	245	6,235

30. It will be seen from the above figures that the number of steamers calling at the Island has greatly increased. Only one sailing vessel, of 233 tons, cleared for the United Kingdom, and two, of a tonnage of 249, for the United States during the year.

Crime.

31. The returns show a decrease in crime as compared with the previous year.

—	1886.	1885.
Number of convictions in the Superior Courts - - -	9	10
Number of summary convictions -	285	368
Number of commitments to gaol -	104	123

General Remarks.

32. This Island is capable of producing large quantities of bananas, oranges, pineapples, and other kinds of fruit, which are now plentifully grown for local consumption. Their production could be greatly increased if an export trade were established, and they would in all probability find a profitable market in the United States. Facilities do not, however, at present exist for making regular shipments, as although a large number of steamers call here, the dates of their arrival are irregular and uncertain,

MONTSERRAT. and they cannot therefore be depended upon for shipment of produce of so perishable a nature.

33. Parts of the Island are well suited for the cultivation of cacao and coffee, which are now only grown to a very limited extent, as well as of other products to which no attention has hitherto been given. The introduction of new industries cannot but be attended with great benefit to the Island, and especially to the numerous class of small proprietors, who would no doubt readily take up the cultivation of new products if they possessed information as to their value, mode of cultivation and preparation, &c., and were in a position to obtain plants and seeds without any large amount of trouble and expense. To meet these requirements it appears to me to be very desirable that the proposal made by the Secretary of State, and concurred in by the Legislative Council in 1885, for establishing a Botanical Station in connexion with the Jamaica Public Gardens and Plantations' Department should be carried into effect. Such an establishment would also be of great value in the improvement and development of existing objects of agriculture.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES,
Acting President.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

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BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 10.

Administrator BRUCE to SIR H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
August 5, 1887.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony of British Guiana for the year 1886, accompanied by the usual report thereon by the Assistant Government Secretary.

I have, &c.
The Right Hon. (Signed) CHARLES BRUCE.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the results shown in the BLUE BOOK for 1886.

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TAXES, DUTIES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

1. The chief sources of the Colonial revenue are custom duties, excise duties, and licences. The laws under which they are derived remained practically unaltered. A new source of supply is anticipated in the gold mining industry, and regulations were enacted towards the close of the year by which the royalty on gold was fixed at 3s. 9d. per ounce, and on silver at 2d. per ounce. The annual licence to trade in raw gold or silver was fixed at 2l. 3s. 4d. and the fee for registering labourers on placer claims at 1s. each.

REVENUE.

2. The Colonial revenue for the year 1886 was 446,025l. 16s. 3½d., an increase of 11,212l. 8s. on the revenue of 1885. A comparison of the figures for the last two years shows increases under the following heads of revenue, viz.:—

	Increase.
	£
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	11,884
Excise duty on rum - - -	5,903
Establishments under Government -	1,468
Interest - - -	1,176
Wine and spirit duties - - -	871
Wood-cutting licences - - -	361

Miscellaneous Receipts.—The difference under this head arises chiefly from the appropriation to general revenue of a sum of 10,416l. 13s. 4d. from accumulated fees of the Administrator General's Fee Fund.

Rum Duties.—The increase under rum duties is attributable to the advance of the excise duty by 5d. per gallon from 1st July, and to increased consumption of duty-paid rum.

The increases shown under the other heads are less important and call for no special remark.

The only two items of decrease that call for remark are retail spirit licences and import duties. The decrease in the licence duties is due to the reduction in the classification of licences, made by the excise board because of the general depression in trade, while diminished imports of rice and flour were chiefly the cause of the decrease in the import duties.

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The sources of revenue which exhibit a decrease are :—

	Decrease.
	£
Retail spirit licences - - -	4,388
Fines and seizures - - -	3,109
Import duties - - -	2,419
Beacon and tonnage dues - - -	653
Taxes fixed by law - - -	318
Licences and fees of office - - -	265

EXPENDITURE.

3. The total Colonial expenditure amounted to 476,964*l.* 0*s.* 8½*d.* and was 13,022*l.* 1*s.* 5¼*d.*, more than the expenditure of 1885.

The following are the principal items of increase or decrease :—

Medical Department.—This head appears for the first time in the Colony's accounts and the sum of 13,318*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, shown under it as an increase on the expenditure of 1885, is the charge of one half of the total expenditure of the new Government medical service in accordance with the resolution passed by the Combined Court in July, 1886. There are corresponding decreases under the heads of poor and hospitals.

Public Debt.—The increase of 15,557*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* exhibited under this head arises chiefly from the payment of interest on bonds issued under Ordinance 6 of 1879, and from the provision made for sinking fund.

Royal Mail Steamers (Subsidy).—The sum of 7,480*l.* shown as an increase on the expenditure of the preceding year was paid in 1886, as the Colony's share of the Imperial subsidy for steam communication with the West Indies from the commencement of the new contract.

Poor.—The decrease of 7,475*l.* 15*s.* 7¼*d.* shown under this head is occasioned chiefly by the discontinuance of the annual contribution to the Immigration Fund for services rendered to the poor by the Medical Department.

Immigration.—An increase of 6,517*l.* 15*s.* is shown under this head. It arises from the expenditure in India and England for 21 months, being brought to account on 31st December 1886. Formerly the Emigration Agent's account and the expenses of immigration incurred in England did not appear in the books of the Colony until the following year, when the emigration season had closed.

Roads and Bridges.—The expenditure on roads under the charge of the District Commissaries was 5,694*l.* 3*s.* 8¼*d.* less than in 1885. This decrease is due to economy from a close and careful supervision of the expenditure by the officers at the head of the Department.

Hospitals.—The decrease of 4,057*l.* 14*s.* which appears under this head in the comparative statement of expenditure has already been alluded to in connexion with the expenditure on the Medical Department. It is due to a re-arrangement of accounts rather than to diminished expenditure.

LOCAL REVENUES.

4. *Georgetown.*—The revenue raised for municipal purposes in the city of Georgetown amounted to 43,365*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.* as compared with 43,897*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.* in 1885. The house-tax levied during the year was at the rate of 2 per cent. on the appraised value.

The chief sources of revenue were :—

	£
Taxes on town property	26,610
Fees from town markets	4,191
Water service	2,716
Government grant in aid	4,166

The expenditure during the year was 44,010*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.*, a decrease of 709*l.* 15*s.* 10½*d.* on the expenditure of 1885.

The following were the principal items, viz. :—

	£
Bonds redeemable and interest account	11,083
Labour and sanitary superintendence	5,775
Waterworks	3,104
Stone dépôt	3,676

In 1789 Georgetown (then known as Stabroek) contained only 88 dwellings, exclusive of stores and offices, and a population of 780 persons. In 1820 the population had increased to 9,191, and the property in the city was appraised at 505,363*l.* 17*s.* In 1841 the population had further increased to 18,585. At the census of 1881 the population was found to be 47,175. The city now covers an area of about 1,000 acres. It contained in 1886 taxable property appraised at 1,366,362*l.* 10*s.*

5. *New Amsterdam.*—The revenue of the town of New Amsterdam amounted to 6,825*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.* It was chiefly derived from the following sources :—

	£
Taxes on town property, 2 per cent.	3,203
Market fees and rent of shops	1,163
Government grant in aid of town funds	1,041

The expenditure amounted to 6,593*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, and the following were the principal items :—

	£
Maintaining roads, bridges, and drainage	1,211
Waterworks establishment	777
„ loan repaid	1,132
Salaries of town officials	1,122

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¶ 6. *Villages*.—Eighteen incorporated villages were rated at a uniform rate of 2 per cent. on house and landed property, and the revenue derived therefrom amounted in the aggregate to 5,272*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* as compared with 5,378*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* in 1885.

The expenditure, amounting to 8,515*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Drainage - - -	3,782	12	1
Roads, dams, and bridges - -	2,039	8	10
Salaries, contingencies, and other expenses - - -	2,693	5	3
	<hr/>		
	8,515	6	2
	<hr/>		

Compared with the expenditure of 1885 there was an increase of 335*l.*

The liabilities of the villages on 31st December were 16,893*l.* 14*s.* 6½*d.* due on Government loan, as compared with 18,142*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.* on 31st December 1885, and exhibit a gradual extinction of the debt to Government.

PUBLIC DEBT.

7. The public debt of the Colony for which the general revenue is directly pledged was, on the 31st December, 446,700*l.* as compared with 162,000*l.* in 1885. A sinking fund of 31,522*l.* was provided for the redemption of the debt. The increase of the public debt arises from the difference between the issue and redemption of bonds under Ordinance 6 of 1879, and the issue of bonds under Ordinance 4 of 1886, for a loan of 250,000*l.* at 4 per cent.

The loans guaranteed by the general revenue exhibit an increase of 10,543*l.* 9*s.* 9½*d.* They were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
For immigration - - -	120,000	0	0
To the city of Georgetown - -	19,761	14	4½
To the town of New Amsterdam -	2,569	8	10
To the Commissioners of Vlissengen -	53,541	13	4
	<hr/>		
Total guaranteed loans -	195,872	16	6½
Amount for which the general revenue is directly pledged - - -	446,700	0	0
	<hr/>		
Grand total, 1886 -	642,572	16	6½
„ 1885 -	347,329	6	9
	<hr/>		
Increase in 1886 -	295,243	9	9½
	<hr/>		

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

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8. The disbursements of the Colonial Government in connexion with the Georgetown Militia, the Volunteer force and the Imperial troops in garrison amounted to 2,662*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.* The Imperial expenditure was 7,333*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* The total military expenditure was therefore 9,996*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.*, and was 4,844*l.* 4*s.* less than in 1885. The decrease in expenditure is due to the withdrawal of troops in garrison.

PUBLIC WORKS.

9. Provision was made on the annual estimate for public works to the extent of 33,827*l.* The actual expenditure during the year was 31,321*l.* as compared with an expenditure in 1885 of 33,878*l.* The expenditure on loan account was 11,340*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* in 1886, as against 26,486*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* in 1885.

The necessity which existed for retrenchment in the expenditure of the Colony prevented new works being undertaken, and the operations of the Public Works Department were wholly confined to the maintenance of existing works under the charge of the Department and to the completion of works already commenced.

The condition of incorporated villages, which were placed under the charge of the Department in 1884, has been greatly improved by the attention which has been paid to the maintenance of proper roads and of drainage and water supply systems.

The principal item of expenditure was, completion of new law courts, 5,335*l.*

The construction of the law courts was authorised by a resolution of the Combined Court passed on 10th June 1875. The works were commenced in 1881 and the total cost to 31st December 1886, when the buildings were very nearly completed, was 61,713*l.* The whole expenditure has been charged to loan account.

LEGISLATION.

10. *Ordinances.*—Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are noteworthy:—

No. 2.—“To authorise the removal from the Colony of aliens considered dangerous to the peace and good order of the Colony.”

No. 3.—“To make provision with regard to alien criminals.”

No. 8.—“To make further provision with regard to the extradition of fugitive criminals who escape from French Guiana.”

Under the provisions of Ordinance No. 2, where it is expedient for the preservation of the peace and good order of the Colony, an alien may be conveyed out of it by an order of the Governor, while under those of Ordinance No. 3 a criminal alien, *i.e.*, one

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who has been sentenced by a foreign tribunal to imprisonment or transportation for any crime, may be kept under supervision for a time limited.

Ordinance No. 8 regulates the procedure in the Colony in reference to the extradition of fugitive criminals from French Guiana.

No. 9.—“To establish a Government medical service and to enforce the registration of practitioners in medicine or surgery.”

The enactment amongst other things establishes a Medical Board with powers to investigate inquiries relating to the public health, and to grant certificates of competency to chemists, dispensers, and midwives. The Board is also charged with the registration of practitioners.

Provision is made for the instruction of persons desiring to qualify as chemists, dispensers or midwives by the establishment of schools for the purpose at the public hospital, in Georgetown, and at such other public hospital as the Governor may direct.

No. 16.—“To amend the Gold Mining Ordinance, 1880.”

The Ordinance of 1880 fixed the royalty to be paid at 2 per cent. of the value of the gold and silver. This was repealed, and under the regulations enacted under the provisions of the new Ordinance, the royalty has been fixed at 3s. 9d. for each ounce in weight of gold and 2d. for each ounce of silver. The regulations were enacted on the 30th November and arrangements made for their coming into operation on 1st January 1887.

No. 17.—“To establish a Government Land Department.”

No. 19.—“To provide for cases where estates are sold at execution sale for road dues, and purchased by the Colony.”

The road system of the Colony introduced at its settlement by the Dutch has in recent years undergone a modification, which renders it more suitable to the altered state of the Colony.

The land on the coast and rivers was originally parcelled out by the Dutch settlers into blocks of from 2,000 to 500 acres, which were granted for plantations, a condition being attached to the grant that the grantee should maintain the public road running along the façade of his grant. After freedom, when villages were formed, and small proprietors began to establish themselves in various parts of the Colony, this condition was found to be onerous. Subsequently when the maintenance of better roads was insisted upon by the Government, and the road laws more strictly enforced, the property was in many instances practically abandoned by the less wealthy proprietor on account of the road dues, and the road maintenance devolved on the Government. This state of things came to an end in 1884, when the Combined Court having made provision for the necessary expenditure, the Government undertook the maintenance of the public roads passing through estates other than sugar plantations. By this arrangement some 350 properties were relieved and the upkeep of about 141 miles of road was transferred to the Government.

Many estates overburdened with road dues had already been acquired at execution sale, or were then heavily indebted to the Government, as appeared from the official return published at the time, which showed that there were 318 properties with an aggregate road debt of nearly 30,000*l*. It accordingly became necessary to establish a Government Department to have charge of and to deal with the lands, also to provide for the collection of arrears of road dues, and the above noted enactments were made with these objects.

11. *Proclamations*.—A proclamation of considerable importance to the Colonists generally and especially to persons interested in the gold fields was issued on 6th November, wherein was announced in reference to the territory in dispute with the Republic of Venezuela, "That no title to land or to any right in or over or affecting any land within the territory claimed by Her Majesty's Government as forming part of the Colony of British Guiana, purporting to be derived from or through the Government of Venezuela or any officer of or person authorised by that Government will be admitted or recognised by Her Majesty or by the Government of British Guiana, and that any person taking possession of or exercising any right over any such land under colour of any such title or pretended title will be liable to be treated as a trespasser under the laws of the said Colony."

The proclamation greatly stimulated the gold industry by inducing capitalists to embark in it.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

12. No change has been made in the political franchise.

The number of registered electors on 31st December was 1,233 as compared with 1,311 registered in 1885.

COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

13. *Court of Policy*.—In Mr. Bruce's absence from the Colony Mr. C. P. Austin, who was occupying a seat as acting Auditor General in Mr. Villers' absence, occupied a seat as acting Government Secretary, and Mr. Darnell Davis, Comptroller of Customs, supplied the vacancy amongst the official members. Mr. C. L. Bascom at the close of the annual session of the Combined Court vacated his seat, and was re-elected thereto.

14. *Combined Court*.—Mr. D. C. Cameron, Mr. W. H. Sherlock, Mr. Andrew Hunter, and Mr. T. W. Phillips resigned in consequence of departure from the Colony, and were succeeded by Mr. R. P. Drysdal Mr. Hugh Sproston, Jun., Mr. John Reid Hunter, and Mr. John S. Hill. Mr. Walter Bagot accepted a seat in the College of Electors and was succeeded by Mr. R. W. Greig.

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CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

15. *Deaths*.—There were five deaths amongst public officers holding appointments in the Colony, viz. :—

Dr. Hugh Croskery, aged 51		
„ H. M. Pereira, „ 42	}	Government medical officers.
„ D. B. Callum, „ 28		
„ J. M. Haward, „ 27		
Mr. J. Silas, „ 42		Clerk in the Medical Department.

16. *Appointments, &c.*—There were no appointments and promotions of importance, and the principal changes in the public service during the year arose from the re-organization or re-arrangement of public departments.

The following officers retired on pension, viz. :—

Doctors H. G. Dalton and T. P. Pollard, Government medical officers.

Rev. J. Huskie, minister of St. Saviour's parish.

Mr. A. G. Thompson, Assistant Colonial Civil Engineer.

Mr. A. A. Burrowes, Inspector of Poor and Secretary to the Hospital Board.

Mr. Wm. Harris, aidwaiter in the Customs Department.

Mr. F. Verbeke, clerk in the Administrator General's office.

Mr. J. Mortimer, sorter in Post Office.

The staff of Customs Department was re-arranged in accordance with a scheme proposed by the Comptroller and approved by the Secretary of State.

The Combined Court on 20th July 1886 passed a resolution to establish a Government medical service, and under its terms the service consists of a Surgeon General, a Medical Inspector, and such number of Government medical officers as may be provided for by the court.

Medical officers are appointed to serve for two years as supernumeraries at a salary of 300*l.* per annum and quarters. Supernumeraries receive this salary when attached to a medical institution or when acting for a shorter period than one month in a medical district. When in charge of a district for a longer period a salary of 500*l.* and a travelling allowance, with liberty to take private practice at a fixed tariff. At the end of two years, if confirmed, medical officers obtain a salary of 400*l.*, increasing by annual increments of 25*l.* to 900*l.* per annum with allowances. The minimum salary of an officer in charge of a district is 500*l.* per annum, but he does not then receive any increment until entitled to such increment by length of service. Special allowances in lieu of private practice are given to officers who are appointed to the charge of medical institutions, and officers in charge of a district receive travelling allowance from 100*l.* to 150*l.* per annum.

SECURITY.

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17. At the annual inspection of securities it was found that 137 officers in positions of trust gave security for the due discharge of their duties, and the sums for which they were liable varied from 52*l.* to 4,000*l.*

There are now only nine officers who do not subscribe to the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund, they having prior to the establishment of the fund executed the usual security bonds for the sums for which they were answerable. The receipts of the fund during the 12 months ended 30th September 1886 amounted to 541*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, and the total amount at credit on that date was 2,320*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

PENSIONS.

18. The pension list of 1886 contained the names of 45 pensioners and amounted to 10,521*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, showing an increase of 1,662*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* on that of 1885. Eight pensioners, with pensions in the aggregate of 4,056*l.* per annum, were added to the list during the year, and by the death of seven pensioners an annual sum of 3,763*l.* lapsed.

PUBLIC OFFICERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.

19. The receipts of the fund—derived from abatements of 4 per cent. from salaries of 100*l.* and upwards of all public officers, and from interest on moneys invested—amounted to 9,317*l.* 8*s.*, as against 9,101*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* in 1885. There were 110 pensioners on the books of the fund on the 31st December as against 93 at the close of the preceding year, and the pensions paid during the year amounted in the aggregate to 7,991*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, showing an increase over 1885 of 664*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* The credit balance of the fund was 59,115*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* The number of officers contributing was 369, of whom 235 were married.

POPULATION.

20. *Estimated Population.*—The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1885 was 270,042. The natural increase during 1886, as represented by the excess of births over deaths, was 2,647, and the increase by excess of immigration over emigration, amounted to 1,622. The population may therefore be estimated at 274,311 on the 31st December 1886, and the area of the Colony being taken as 109,000 square miles, the population would be at the rate of 2·51 to the square mile.

21. *Births and Deaths.*—The return of births and deaths shows that the number of births registered during the year was 9,661, an excess on the births in 1885 of 1,110 and the highest number of births hitherto registered in any one year.

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It is satisfactory also to note that while the birth-rate exhibits an increase the death-rate exhibits a decrease; the returns for 1885 and 1886 were as follows:—

1885	-	8,551 births;	7,973 deaths;	578 excess of births.
1886	-	9,661 „	7,014 „	2,647 „ „

MISCELLANEOUS RETURNS.

22. *Savings Bank*.—On the 31st December there were 13,532 depositors in the Government savings banks, with deposits amounting in the aggregate to 195,414*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* Of the depositors 6,282 were immigrants, with a sum of 115,658*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* to their credit. The Creole and other depositors numbered 7,250 and at their credit there was the sum of 79,755*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*

The deposits of the immigrants give an average of 18*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.* per depositor, and those of the Creoles and others an average of 11*l.* 0*s.* 1¾*d.*

23. *Paupers*.—The number of persons who received poor law relief during the year was 2,269 as against 2,340 in the previous year. The relief is disbursed by the Poor Law Commissioners with the aid of local boards. The disbursements in 1886 amounted to 8,402*l.*

24. *Immigration*.—The number of immigrants introduced during the year was 3,511 from Calcutta, equivalent to 3,013½ statute adults, and as compared with 1885 there was a decrease of 3,282 statute adults owing to the diminution in the requisition of the planters and to the cessation of immigration from Madras and Barbados.

The average cost of each statute adult Indian immigrant was 14*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* during the season 1885–6, as compared with 16*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* in the previous season, and 17*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* in the season 1883–84.

The thrift of the Indian immigrants is seen not only from the large deposits at their credit in the Government savings bank, but also from the deposits made for remittance to India. During the period from 1st April 1885 to 31st December 1886 the Emigration Agent at Calcutta paid out the sum of no less than 34,875*l.* on account of the savings of immigrants. The balances of estates of deceased immigrants paid out by the Administrator General during the year amounted in the aggregate to 551*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.*

25. *Return Immigrants*.—The number of immigrants who returned to India during the year was 1,889 souls, or 1,695 statute adults, being, as compared with the number returned in 1885, an increase of 114½ adults. The sums deposited with the Government by these immigrants for remittance to India amounted in the aggregate to 19,224*l.* 10*s.* 10½*d.*, and the value of the jewellery carried away by them is estimated at 4,062*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

EDUCATION.

26. *Queen's College*.—The number of students in this institution on 31st December 1886 was 72. Thirteen students from Queen's College were successful at the Cambridge Local Examination held in December, 1886, and the Guiana scholarship has been awarded to one of these, an over-age candidate, who sat specially for the scholarship and took first-class honours with four marks of distinction.

27. *Elementary Schools*.—Government aid, amounting in the aggregate to 17,369*l.* 18*s.*, was granted to 160 schools. One of these was closed by the manager at the commencement of the year. Those remaining on the list of State-aided schools were distributed as follows, viz.: In Georgetown, 25; New Amsterdam, 7; County Demerara, 60; Berbice, 35; Essequibo, 25; and mission schools, 5. There were on the registers 18,919 children, whose average attendance during the year was 11,323. The number present at inspection was 16,019, of whom 10,707 were examined, and 8,566 passed, the passes being 75 per cent. of the average attendance.

These figures show an improvement in attendance and in passes. The average attendance had increased in 1886 by 695, and the passes were 6 per cent. more than in 1885, so that satisfactory progress would appear to have been made in the schools.

28. *School for Vagrant Boys and Youthful Offenders*.—There were 142 boys in the school on 31st December, as compared with 137 in the preceding year. The boys are chiefly employed in agriculture, and 61 acres of land are in cultivation in plantains, cocoa, coffee, cassava and other provisions. The farm produce yielded a return of 346*l.* The cost of the institution was 2,530*l.*, or about 17*l.* 16*s.* per head.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

29. *Value of Imports*.—The imports of 1886 were valued at 1,436,297*l.* 17*s.*, showing a decrease of 31,084*l.* 10*s.* 9½*d.* as compared with the imports of the preceding year, and of 563,150*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* as compared with 1884.

30. *Articles imported*.—The Comptroller of Customs in his annual report summarizes the imports and the countries from which they are drawn, as follows:—

“From the United Kingdom we import machinery, bricks, slates, grindstones, coals, cordage, and other estates' supplies: groceries, grain and pulse, malt, wines, spirits, preserved fruits, and meats, cheese, butter, hams, bacon, salt, confectionery, and other articles of food; linens, cottons, and haberdashery; hardware, cutlery and silver, and plated ware; carriages and manufactured straw and wood; paper and leather; stationery and toys; drugs and chemicals, oils, soaps, candles (not tallow), matches and varnish; and manufactured tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, and snuff. We also received from the United Kingdom—rice, tea,

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opium, gange, and other articles not produced or manufactured there, including beet sugar. From the United States come flour and other breadstuffs; pickled beef and pork, lard, butter, cheese, fish, and preserved meats and fruits; horses, mules, and sheep; corn, meal, hay, and oats; tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, kerosine oil and tallow candles, hardware, outlery and carriages; pitch, lumber, staves, wood hoops, and manufactured wood, and soap, glassware, and manufactured paper. India sends us rice, dholl, oils, and ghee. From British North America we get lumber, staves, and manufactured wood; hay, oats and potatoes; sheep and large quantities of fish. Our imports from the neighbouring Colonies consist chiefly of merchandize originally imported into those Colonies from North America, and thence sent on to British Guiana for a market; but Barbados sends us of its own production, lime, ground provisions, and feathered stock. From France we get large quantities of butter, some vinegar, preserved meats, and potatoes, brandy and claret, and manufactured paper, wood hoops, and a small quantity of haberdashery. The articles brought from Portugal and her dependencies consist of onions, potatoes, grain and pulse, and preserved fruit; tarragona, claret, and other wines; and oils, bricks, haberdashery, and manufactured straw. From Dutch Guiana come cocoa, coffee and gin; and from Venezuela, a few horses and donkeys, and large numbers of horned cattle. We get from Holland, malt, liqueurs and gin; cheese and candles (not tallow), and some cigars and cigarettes."

31. *Articles of Food.*—The [following is a statement of the principal articles of food imported in the Colony during the year 1886 :—

Statement of the Principal Articles of Food imported during the year 1886.

	No.	Value.
Beef, pickled - - barrels	8,015	£ 18,055
Bread - - lbs.	556,800	5,604
Butter - - "	651,029	21,765
Corn and pulse - bushels	100,761	19,289
Corn and oatmeal - lbs.	1,209,604	4,008
Fish, dried - - cwt.	100,873	57,376
Lard - - lbs.	527,677	7,102
Onions - - "	1,272,166	4,633
Pork - - barrels	16,832	36,358
Rice - - lbs.	33,635,132	170,793

32. *Exports.*—The value of the exports was 1,842,585*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* As compared with the exports of the two preceding years, there was an increase on 1885 of 41,762*l.* 10*s.* 10½*d.*, and a decrease on 1884 of 479,446*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*

The following is a comparative statement of the value of exports in the years 1885 and 1886 :—

Comparative Statement of the Value of Exports in the years 1885 and 1886, showing the Increase or Decrease in 1886 in each description of Export.

Articles.	Value.		Increase in 1886.	Decrease in 1886.
	1885.	1886.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coffee - - -	55 5 6	11 4 2	—	41 1 4
Cocoanuts - - -	498 6 6	753 14 11½	254 8 5½	—
Charcoal - - -	6,153 11 1	6,809 0 7	652 9 6	—
Corn and pulse - - -	1,497 19 7	249 16 10	—	1,148 2 9
Cattle and live stock - - -	1,402 17 10	759 7 6	—	643 10 4
Firewood - - -	285 12 11	196 12 6	—	40 0 5
Glue, fish - - -	1,524 11 3½	625 2 9	—	899 8 6½
Gum, Balata - - -	2,112 11 6	2,978 18 7½	866 7 1½	—
" other - - -	1,639 19 1	1,793 19 5	154 0 4	—
Hides and horns - - -	2,509 12 7	2,028 11 5½	—	481 1 1½
Molasses - - -	24,540 0 0	55,763 4 1	21,223 4 1	—
Rum - - -	206,743 1 1	153,596 14 8	—	53,146 6 5
Shingles - - -	1,782 3 6	1,003 5 7	—	779 17 11
Sugar - - -	1,384,844 19 9½	1,457,740 18 2	72,895 13 4½	—
Timber - - -	26,059 11 2	14,205 16 4	—	11,853 14 10
Bullion, gold - - -	3,240 3 4	23,342 3 8	20,093 0 4	—
Miscellaneous - - -	2,691 18 5½	9,527 15 10½	6,835 17 5	—
Total colonial produce - - -	1,677,531 5 2½	1,731,461 7 2	122,965 5 7½	69,035 3 3 ½
Total foreign produce - - -	123,291 13 8	111,104 2 7	—	12,187 11 1
Total exports - - -	1,800,822 18 10½	1,842,565 9 9	122,965 5 7½	81,222 14 9
Net increase, colonial produce, in 1886 - - -	53,950 1 11½	—	41,762 10 10½	—
Net decrease, foreign produce, in 1886 - - -	—	12,187 11 1		
	1,854,773 0 10	1,884,773 0 10		

33. *Direction of Trade.*—The following comparative statement shows the direction and value of the trade of the Colony in 1885 and 1886 :—

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	724,671	787,052	1,293,613	1,071,432
United States - - -	345,342	295,864	308,377	562,616
British North America - - -	90,764	101,072	19,968	33,022
British West Indies - - -	49,813	36,866	64,436	44,084
Bermuda - - -	171	367	2,619	3,051
India - - -	195,928	143,464	1,046	308
Other foreign countries - - -	60,248	69,162	110,034	127,483
African Possessions - - -	445	2,450	729	589
Total - - -	1,467,382	1,436,297	1,800,822	1,842,585

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SHIPPING.

34. *Vessels*.—The number of vessels entered and cleared at the two ports of the Colony, Georgetown and New Amsterdam, during the year was as follows:—

—	Ports.	Entered.			Cleared.		
		No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Steam vessels.	Georgetown -	168	141,964	6,885	159	185,849	6,658
	New Amsterdam -	—	—	—	2	1,751	47
	Total -	168	141,964	6,885	161	187,100	6,700
Sailing vessels.	Georgetown -	755	169,770	6,383	742	167,418	6,882
	New Amsterdam -	29	6,180	209	25	5,418	186
	Total -	784	175,950	6,542	767	172,831	6,568
Total steam and sailing vessels -		952	317,914	13,427	928	309,931	13,268

As compared with the year preceding there was an increase in the number of vessels visiting the ports of the Colony, but a slight falling off in the gross tonnage, as is shown in the following comparative statement:—

—	Vessels.	1885.		1886.		Increase.		Decrease.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered.	Steam vessels -	151	134,558	168	141,964	17	7,376	—	—
	Sailing do. -	760	179,792	784	175,950	18	—	—	3,842
	Total -	917	314,380	952	317,914	35	7,376	—	3,842
Cleared.	Steam vessels -	154	136,457	161	137,100	7	643	—	—
	Sailing do. -	771	183,366	767	172,831	—	—	4	10,535
	Total -	925	319,823	928	309,931	7	643	4	10,535

AGRICULTURE.

35. *Cultivation*.—The following are the principal heads of cultivation: Canes, cocoanuts, plaintains, coffee, cocoa, rice, and arrowroot.

36. *Sugar plantations.*—The total area of land in cultivation and occupied by sugar plantations, as per acreage returns of 30th June 1886, was 81,421 acres, of which 76,203 acres were in canes, and the remaining 5,218 acres in plantain. The area in canes exhibits an increase of 859 acres over the area in cultivation in 1885. It is estimated that an area of about 1,500 acres is under cane cultivation by the village farmers. The canes are purchased from the growers and are ground on the sugar estates on the usine system.

A comparison of the exports for the last five years of sugar, rum and molasses, the products of the sugar cane, shows the fall in the value of their produce with which the sugar planters have had to contend. The quantities and values of the exports were as follows :—

—		1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Sugar	Quantity - hhd.	137,991	129,595	139,246	106,781	124,283
	Value . . £	2,585,457	2,591,906	1,823,969	1,384,844	1,457,740
Rum .	Quantity - puns.	29,209	26,490	33,400	23,353	24,773
	Value . . £	298,171	284,901	250,500	206,743	153,596
Molasses .	Quantity - casks	17,130	20,214	13,854	10,363	20,001
	Value . . £	71,333	101,070	48,203	34,540	55,763

The value of sugar as shown above fell from an average in 1882 of 18*l.* 15*s.* per hhd. and in 1883 of 20*l.* per hhd. to an average of 11*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* per hhd. in 1886.

The average yield per acre of cane cultivation in 1886 as adduced from the acreage and export returns was 1.6 hhd. per acre. There is no return of sugar supplied for local consumption, but as a set-off against that supply there is the acreage of the village cultivation not included in the above-mentioned returns.

37. *Villages.*—The survey of the cultivated areas of villages completed during 1886 shows the tillage to be as follows :—

		Acre.
In the county of Demerara	-	5,847
„ „ „ Essequibo	-	3,047
„ „ „ Berbice	-	3,939
Total area of village cultivation		- 12,833

There are still no statistics of the area of other cultivated lands held by proprietors of plantain, cocoanut, cocoa, and coffee estates.

During the year under report there were importations of the following articles producible in the Colony, viz.: Arrowroot, 32,332 lbs.; cocoa, 112,628 lbs.; coffee, 171,921 lbs.; corn, 26,661 bushels; ginger, 24,003 lbs.; rice, 33,635,132 lbs. &c.

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GUYANA.

One cause which now greatly militates against the production of these articles in quantities sufficient for home consumption is the cost of transportation within the Colony. The tillage in the villages is almost wholly confined to an attempt to meet the demands of the immediate neighbourhood, and this is seen by the diversified character of village culture, which consists chiefly of small patches of plantains, cassava, sweet potatoes, yams, tannais, and other provisions, interspersed with fruit trees of various kinds.

38. *Cocoanuts* are cultivated chiefly in the Mahaicony district. During recent years works have been erected in this district for the extraction of cocoanut oil and the preparation of the fibre for use. The exports during the year were 283,775 cocoanuts, valued at 752*l*.

39. *Coffee cultivation* was commenced in 1721 in the county of Berbice, and at one time coffee formed one of the principal articles of export from the Colony. It is now not even produced in sufficient quantities for home consumption. In 1886 the exports were only 410 lbs.

40. *Cocoa*.—The cocoa cultivation, to which attention was called in the Report on the Blue Book of 1882, is now beginning to yield, and the exports of 1886 included 1,968 lbs. of native grown cocoa, valued at 52*l*. The importance of this export becomes more apparent when it is borne in mind that the cultivation has only recently commenced, and that the cocoa tree does not attain its full productive vigour till about the eighth year.

41. *Rice*.—Allusion has been made in previous reports to recent attempts at rice growing and to the importance of fostering this industry. Public attention was directed to it by the Hon. Wm. Russell, President of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, in an interesting address, delivered before the society on the 10th of June, from which it appeared that on the Anna Regina estate, in the county of Essequibo, about 300 acres had been placed in rice cultivation, and it was demonstrated that the cultivation could be carried on by the rice farmers on the lands rented from the estate at a cost of 13*l*. 18*s*. 6*d*. per acre, and with a gain of 11*l*. 1*s*. 6*d*. per annum. The East Coast Demerara water supply scheme brought into existence a rude cultivation of this article on the savannahs aback of the estates. To admit of Crown lands being taken up for the purpose regulations are being framed under which they would be rented out at 4*s*. 2*d*. (one dollar) per acre per annum.

42. *Arrowroot*.—The soil on the west coast of the county of Berbice is suited to the production of this article, and the labouring population are being encouraged by well-directed efforts to pursue the industry. There are 931 acres in cultivation by villagers of that district, the greater part of which is in arrowroot.

43. *Locust Visitation*.—The agricultural industry appeared at one time during the year to be seriously threatened through a visitation of locusts. Swarms of these insects were first reported on the confines of the Colony adjoining Venezuela in the month

of January These had disappeared, when in August fresh swarms were reported to be devastating the cultivation on the banks of the Berbice river. Upon the extent of the invasion being ascertained, the Government took prompt steps for the destruction of the insects and offered rewards of 2s. per gallon for the young locusts and eggs and 6d. per gallon for the winged insects. This expedient of hand picking, aided by an organized system of tarred screens, was so successful that at the close of the year the locusts had quite disappeared. The cost of the campaign, exclusive of private expenditure, was 2,399l. 10s. 5d., but the money expended in rewards mitigated the distress which would otherwise have arisen from the destruction of the crops of the provision growers.

44. *Floods.*—Another calamity then threatened the entire country. An excessively heavy rainfall during the last two months of the year submerged the country. The waters of the savannahs aback rose several inches during the continuance of the rains, and where the cultivation was not adequately protected by dams, disaster ensued. Plantain cultivation especially suffered, and the price of this important article of food, which owing to over-production had been unusually low, has risen about 100 per cent. in consequence of the losses sustained by the growers.

45. *Polder Schemes.*—The Government recognizes the importance of the permanent improvement and development of the country and its policy of late years has been to rectify the economically unsound condition under which the revenue is dependent on a single staple commodity. The Polder Ordinance, re-enacted in 1886, provides machinery for ensuring drainage and water supply in districts where these are needed, and for bringing about a restoration of general cultivation where it has been given up through the landed proprietors being unable to carry out the costly works necessary for maintaining it.

Two important districts have been selected for the operations of the Ordinance, viz.: the cattle-grazing district on the east coast of Berbice, and the provision lands on canals No. 1 and No. 2 on the west bank of the Demerara river, in convenient proximity to the city of Georgetown. The former district contains an area of 18,000 acres and the latter an area of 21,256 acres.

46. *Uncultivated Lands.*—There were 76,731 acres of empoldered but uncultivated lands in the occupation of sugar estates. The total area of uncultivated lands cannot be even approximately ascertained, as the returns of cultivated lands are not complete.

47. *Rate of Wages.*—The wages of labourers on sugar estates, as shown from the return furnished by the Immigration Agent General, varied from 6d. for light work in the manufactory to 4s. 2d. per diem. The need for retrenchment owing to the fall in the price of sugar necessarily affects the labourers engaged in the sugar industry, but the demand for labour in British Guiana, without which large plantations could not be maintained and the cultivation extended as shown by the acreage returns, tends to ensure a fair rate of wages. The extension of cultivation on the provision farms and the prevailing low price of food, together

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with the opening up of the gold industry, had a beneficial action in preserving from any very general distress amongst the labouring classes, which might otherwise have been experienced in consequence of the enforced economical management of the sugar estates.

48. *Improvements in Agriculture and Manufacture.*—The value of the machinery imported into the colony during the year 1886 was 61,230*l.*, as compared with 46,189*l.* in 1885. A valuable plant for carrying on the diffusion process was in course of erection on the Nonpareil Estate.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

49. *Manufactures.*—The manufactures of the Colony may be said to be exclusively connected with its staple product, the sugar cane, the only other manufactories being the oil and fibre works at Fortitude, Mahaicony, already referred to, and two match manufactories in Georgetown.

50. *Mines.*—Mining for gold and silver has been more than once attempted. So far back as the year 1721, through the enterprise of the Dutch, a shaft was sunk on the Cayuni river, but was shortly afterwards abandoned. In 1862 another attempt was made by the British Guiana Gold Company, but the enterprise was again given up because of the difficulties by which it was surrounded. Successful prospecting during recent years has caused attention to be once more turned to the gold industry, and the reported richness of fields on the Puruni river has attracted a number of diggers. Steps have now been taken by the Government for regulating and developing the industry, which gives promise of becoming an important one to the Colony.

The exports of gold during recent years have been as follows:—

						£
1882	-	-	-	-	-	187
1883	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
1884	-	-	-	-	-	1,019
1885	-	-	-	-	-	3,249
1886	-	-	-	-	-	23,342

GRANTS OF LAND.

51. Eight licences of occupancy and 25 woodcutting licences were issued during the year for an area of 10,993 acres, a decrease of 1,564 acres as compared with the area granted in 1885. Six of the licences were for grants of 100 acres and under, 23 for tracts of above 100 acres and not exceeding 500 acres, and four for tracts of more than 500 acres each.

There was a decrease of eight woodcutting licences, as compared with the number issued in 1885. The timber exported amounted to 222,968 cubic feet, valued at 14,205*l.*, as compared with an export in 1885 of 387,889 cubic feet, representing a value of 26,059*l.*

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

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52. *Police Reports.*—The number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates was 11,463, a decrease of 2,958 compared with the number reported in 1885.

53. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The manner in which the cases brought before the Magistrates' Courts in 1885 and 1886 were disposed of was as follows:—

	1885.	1886.
Convicted - - - - -	12,480	11,245
Discharged - - - - -	8,091	7,543
Acquitted - - - - -	6,002	5,734
Sent on to Higher Courts - - - - -	419	898
Total - - - - -	26,942	24,920

54. *Convictions.*—The total number of summary convictions in the Magistrates' Courts was 11,245, as compared with 12,430 in the preceding year and 11,617 in 1884; while in the Superior Courts there were 272 convictions as compared with 341 in 1885, and 180 in 1884. There was in 1886 a marked decrease in prædial larceny and other offences against property, as is shown by the following figures:—

	1884.	1885.	1886.
Prædial larceny - - - - -	164	628	169
Other offences against property - - - - -	1,283	1,745	1,158

55. *Punishments.*—The punishments inflicted in the Magistrates' Courts in 1885 and 1886 are shown in the following comparative statement:—

Punishment.	1885.	1886.
Fine - - - - -	48·99	55·05
Peremptory imprisonment - - - - -	15·76	10·10
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety - - - - -	32·14	30·26
Whipping - - - - -	1·71	1·81
Bound over with or without sureties - - - - -	2·19	3·28

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

56. The total number of prisoners committed was 5,389, showing a decrease on the preceding year of 1,806 prisoners. The number committed for the purposes of penal imprisonment was 4,486, the remaining 903 were committed for safety till trial or for want of security. 1,807 prisoners (1,412 males, 283 females, and 112 juveniles) had been previously convicted—of these, 1,559 once, 173 twice, and 75 three times or more. The daily average number in prison was 855 as compared with 880 in 1885 and 741 in 1884.

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There were 2,672 admissions to the prison hospitals, and 12 cases of sickness resulted fatally compared with 1,170 admissions and 30 deaths in 1885. The daily average on the sick list was 26 as compared with 28 in 1885. Three executions took place during the year. On 12 occasions as compared with 33 in 1885 whipping was inflicted for offences within the prison walls, in six cases with the cat and in six cases with the birch, but while there was a decrease in the number of whippings there was an increase of 440 in the total number of punishments inflicted, the punishments during 1886 being 3,150 as against 2,710 in 1885.

HOSPITALS.

57. *Administration.*—Under the provisions of the Ordinance passed in 1885 for the better regulation of public hospitals the following institutions were declared to be public hospitals and were placed under the control and direction of the Surgeon General, viz. :—

The public hospitals at Georgetown and New Amsterdam ; the free hospital at Her Majesty's penal settlement ; the public hospital at Suddie, Essequibo ; the leper asylums, Mahaica and Gorchum ; and the lunatic asylum at Berbice.

The institutions were, during 1886, administered under regulations made by the Governor and Court of Policy in October 1885.

The new wards at the hospital in Georgetown, for the construction of which a vote of 10,916*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* was taken in 1884, were formally opened on 5th March 1886. They contain accommodation for 240 additional patients.

58. *Admissions.*—There were 594 patients in the public hospital at Georgetown at the commencement of the year, an increase of 128 on the number at the same time of the year 1885. The number of patients admitted for treatment during the year was 7,701 as compared with 6,353 in the preceding year.

The admissions of patients to the public hospital at New Amsterdam were 2,068 as compared with 1,489 in 1885. There were 97 patients in hospital at the commencement of the year as compared with 87 in the previous year.

Thirty-nine patients were in the Suddie Hospital at the commencement of the year and 685 were admitted as compared with 704 in the previous year ; while in the free hospital at Massaruni there were two patients on the 1st January and 70 admissions during the year, a decrease of 17 as compared with the previous year.

59. *Out-patients.*—28,102 out-patients, an increase of 12,685 on the previous year, were treated at the public hospital in George-

town: 4,400 as compared with 5,032 at the hospital at New Amsterdam; 653 at Suddie; and 719 at Massaruni.

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60. *Discharges*.—The number of patients discharged was as follows:—

	Georgetown.	New Amsterdam.	Suddie.	Massaruni.
Cured - - -	4,419	1,748	433	22
Relieved - - -	1,762	127	128	36
Not improved - - -	655	45	25	7
Total -	6,836	1,920	586	65

61. *Deaths*.—There were 758 deaths in the hospital at Georgetown, as compared with 913 in 1885.*

In the New Amsterdam Hospital there were 148 deaths as against 188 in 1885; in the hospital, Essequibo, 82 as against 100 in the previous year; and at Massaruni Hospital 5 as against 13 in 1885.

The cases treated in all the public hospitals amounted in the aggregate to 10,423 and the deaths to 993, showing a mortality of 9.5 per cent. of cases treated.

62. *Diseases*.—The following is a comparative table of diseases treated at the four public hospitals, and of the deaths from such diseases, for the years 1885 and 1886:—

Diseases.	Georgetown.				New Amsterdam.			
	1885.		1886.		1885.		1886.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic - - -	1,885	252	2,344	45	408	54	1,015	77
Constitutional - - -	475	150	959	239	188	46	42	9
Local - - -	2,587	352	3,441	438	818	61	917	46
Developmental - - -	634	100	213	26	140	23	57	12
By violence, &c. - - -	274	19	511	10	72	4	134	4
Total - - -	5,855†	882*	7,468	753‡	1,676	188	2,165	148

* The number of deaths were 913; 31 deaths were not accounted for in the statement of diseases treated.

† 23 moribund on admission.

‡ 87 moribund on admission.

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(continued.)

Diseases.	Suddie.				Massaruni.			
	1885.		1886.		1885.		1886.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic . . .	106	19	224	19	40	10	23	1
Constitutional . . .	67	34	62	21	5	—	1	1
Local	411	35	371	34	28	3	32	2
Developmental . . .	43	10	40	7	2	—	5	1
By violence, &c. . .	24	2	23	1	12	—	9	—
Total	740*	100	720	82†	87	13	70	5

* 9 moribund on admission.

† 10 moribund on admission.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

63. *Admissions.*—The admissions were 182 (112 males and 70 females). The daily average number in the asylum was 508·4, an increase of 71·4 as compared with 1885.

64. *Discharges.*—Thirty-six inmates (26 males and 10 females) were discharged as cured, and one male left improved, making a total of 37 discharges.

65. *Deaths.*—There were 52 deaths (26 males and 26 females) in the institution. In 18 instances the deceased suffered from "Bright's" disease.

66. *Form of Mental Disorders.*—The cases in the asylum at the close of the year were classified as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Maniacal and dangerous . . .	16·08	9·68
Quiet chronic	40·62	13·29
Melancholy and suicidal . . .	1·84	5·10
Idiotic, paralytic and epileptic . . .	6·56	6·92

LEPER ASYLUMS.

67. The accommodation for males consists of three two-storey buildings raised on brick pillars and 20 huts. The females occupy six one-storey buildings on pillars.

At the close of the year there were at the asylums 322 inmates (254 males and 68 females). 89 males and 22 females were admitted during the year. 46 inmates died, the mortality being 2·22 per cent. less than in the preceding year. The chief cause of death was exhaustion from the disease.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH RETURNS.

BRITISH
GULANA.
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68. *Postal*.—The number of letters posted during the year is estimated at 1,237,038 as compared with 1,064,197 in 1885. There was also a satisfactory increase in the money order transactions, the total value of orders issued being 11,044*l.*, as compared with 9,567*l.* in the preceding year. The Postmaster General remarks as a matter of interest that “during the year 127 money orders were issued to Indian immigrants for remitting to India sums of money amounting in the aggregate to \$2,327.06.” The revenue from foreign parcel post was 110*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* and the sum collected for customs dues was 172*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* 2,110 parcels were received and 983 despatched. The despatch of parcels from the Colony commenced in August, 1886.

69. *Telegraph*.—The telegraph receipts are less satisfactory and exhibit a further falling off of 40*l.*, the receipts for 1886 only amounting to 2,619*l.*, as compared with 2,660*l.* in 1885, and 3,212*l.* in 1884. The Postmaster General attributes the falling off “entirely to the constant and prolonged interruption of telegraphic communication between Georgetown and the Arabian coast, Essequibo.”

GENERAL REMARKS.

70. Meteorological observations having been discontinued in the Public Works Department, no returns can be given among the Blue Book statistics for 1886, but a record of the rainfall kept at the Botanic Gardens, Georgetown, gave the following results:—

January	-	-	7.90	August	-	-	8.38
February	-	-	6.24	September	-	-	4.31
March	-	-	2.12	October	-	-	1.35
April	-	-	2.72	November	-	-	11.04
May	-	-	13.01	December	-	-	20.87
June	-	-	11.80				
July	-	-	9.52	Total	-	-	<u>99.26</u>

Total rainfall for the year 99.26 inches.

71. No epidemic disease visited the Colony, and the general health was good.

72. No serious breaches of the peace occurred, and the criminal statistics exhibit a satisfactory decrease in crime.

73. For the greater part of the year native foodstuffs were unusually cheap. The gold industry gave employment to a large number of persons, and thus the fall in wages was not so severely felt in 1886 as in 1885.

74. The sugar crop exceeded that of 1885 by 17,552 hogsheads, and was rather over the average of the preceding five years, but the low price of sugar still seriously affects the industry.

75. Contrasting the general results of the year under review with those of the previous year it will be seen that there is a marked improvement and that the Colony is passing through a

period of general depression in British sugar-producing Colonies in a manner calculated to inspire confidence as to its ultimate survival.

(Signed) F. W. COLLIER,
Acting Assistant Government Secretary.
Government Secretary's Office,
27th June 1887.

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 11.

Governor Sir F. A. WELD to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Singapore,
May 13, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the administration report for the year 1886, which has been prepared in anticipation of the issue of the Blue Book of the Colony for the past year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. A. WELD,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., M.P., G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS for the Year 1886.

FINANCE.

Revenue and
expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony received during the year 1886 amounted to \$3,747,501, and the expenditure defrayed during the year amounted to \$3,495,639, showing a surplus on the year's transactions of \$251,862.* The following comparative statement gives particulars of the revenue and expenditure in 1885 and 1886 :—

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
—	1885.	1886.	—	1885.	1886.
Land revenue - -	\$ 287,976	\$ 383,780	Salaries - - -	\$ 933,165	\$ 1,047,412
Rents, exclusive of land -	6,216	2,505	Allowances - -	—	12,200
Licenses - - -	2,152,080	2,441,400	Contingencies - -	27,135	26,146
Stamps - - -	320,659	341,846	Pensions - - -	84,523	91,294
Port and harbour dues -	72,683	75,375	Revenue services -	87,769	62,877
Postage - - -	98,787	109,030	Administration of Justice	7,254	7,771
Carried forward -	2,988,801	3,363,936	Carried forward -	1,139,846	1,247,709

* Allowing for arrears at the beginning and end of the year, the revenue was \$3,742,564, and the expenditure \$3,491,976, giving a surplus of \$250,588, and raising the net balance to the credit of the Colony, as shown in the next statement, from \$1,084,128 to \$1,334,716.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	1885.	1886.		1885.	1886.
Brought forward -	\$ 2,933,301	\$ 3,353,936	Brought forward -	\$ 1,139,846	\$ 1,247,709
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court -	40,281	40,337	Eccelesiastical -	1,216	1,223
Fees of office -	18,335	19,449	Charitable allowances -	13,800	11,576
Reimbursements (including municipal contribution towards police expenditure, \$50,000) -	124,344	111,143	Education -	125,607	78,642
Sale of Government property -	2,687	4,014	Medical -	102,907	106,014
Interest -	119,435	132,480	Police -	81,049	70,575
Miscellaneous receipts -	214,460	39,817	Gaols -	67,853	69,643
Special receipts -	41,232	37,315	Harbour department -	11,691	10,387
Total -	3,508,075	3,747,501	Lighthouses -	26,059	21,595
			Lighthouse tender -	26,781	23,196
			Colonial steamer -	190,389	15,424
			Steam launches -	—	14,748
			Postal services -	61,959	60,961
			Rent -	46,003	8,963
			Transport -	169,425	70,412
			Interest -	994,723	77,729
			Miscellaneous services -	262,213	190,327
			Works and buildings -	4,793	963,196
			Roads, streets, bridges, and canals -	239,606	201,392
			Land and houses purchased -	3,938	1,264
			Military expenditure -	3,461	241,050
			Native States -	3,461	5,017
			Special expenditure -	3,461	5,564
			Total -	3,593,140	3,465,639

* Includes \$137,417 for arrears of Imperial share of postage.

2. The following statement gives particulars of the assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the year 1886:—

Assets.			Liabilities.		
	1st January 1886.	31st December 1886.		1st January 1886.	31st December 1886.
Cash on current accounts or on fixed deposit with local banks -	\$ 254,163	\$ 440,529	Debenture loan -	\$ 275,576	\$ 250,461
Balance on Crown Agents' accounts and Bills <i>in transitu</i> -	21,136	29,753	Deposits, &c. -	272,238	212,890
Invested in Government of India loans -	500,000	500,000	Expenditure in arrears -	15,450	11,788
Loans to Native States -	204,000	204,000	Net balance to the credit of the Colony -	1,084,128	1,334,716
Loans to Municipalities -	452,500	442,500			
Miscellaneous advances -	122,611	141,763			
Singapore defences account -	78,153	41,262			
Revenue in arrears -	14,879	9,943			
Total -	1,647,442	1,809,255	Total -	1,647,442	1,809,255

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

Land revenue.

Revenue.

3. The following statement gives particulars of the land revenue collected in 1885 and 1886 :—

	1885.			1886.		
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
Premium on leases	\$ 30,913	\$ 970	\$ 1,186	\$ 42,154	\$ 4,479	\$ 2,550
Land sales -	111,196	—	—	178,595	—	—
Rents -	40,808	26,319	52,544	43,981	31,023	53,830
Tenths and royalties	2,451	1,690	9,901	2,960	1,367	7,610
Miscellaneous -	4,148	6,631	589	5,104	10,234	886
Total -	188,706	35,500	63,470	272,794	47,123	63,864
	287,976			383,790		

Licenses.

4. The excise farms and the pawnbroker's farm, the rents of which are included under the head of licenses, were re-let in the year 1885, for three from 1st January 1886. The following statement shows the rents for the several farms for the periods 1883-1885 and 1886-1888 respectively :—

					1883-85.	1886-88.
Opium—					\$	\$
Singapore	-	-	-	-	960,000	1,082,000
Penang -	-	-	-	-	480,000	600,000
Malacca	-	-	-	-	158,600	147,600
Total	-	-	-	-	1,598,600	1,779,600
Spirits—						
Singapore	-	-	-	-	204,000	250,800
Penang -	-	-	-	-	216,000	238,200
Malacca	-	-	-	-	34,200	39,000
Total	-	-	-	-	454,200	518,000
Pawn—						
Singapore	-	-	-	-	58,820	90,240
Penang -	-	-	-	-	42,000	52,800
Malacca	-	-	-	-	3,960	5,760
Total	-	-	-	-	104,280	148,800

5. The revenue under stamps shows an increase for the whole Colony of \$21,186, thus :—

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

				Increase.	Decrease.
Singapore	-	-	-	\$ —	\$ 2,373
Penang	-	-	-	24,951*	—
Malacca	-	-	-	—	1,392
Total	-	-	-	24,951	3,765
				21,186	

The falling off in Singapore and Malacca is due to exemptions from duty of certain instruments and reduction in duty on others, under the new schedule of the Ordinance. Against these reductions is to be set the increased duties on probate and on the bank note issue of the chartered banks; the operation of these increased duties is not yet fully felt.

6. The revenue shows an increase of \$2,792 arising from local trading steamers having been called upon to pay light dues in Penang, in consequence of the erection of lighthouses there.

Port and harbour dues.

Expenditure.

7. The expenditure in 1886 on public works (exclusive of establishments)† as compared with the similar expenditure on the previous year is shown in the following statement :—

Public works, aggregate expenditure.

				1885.		1886.	
				Works.	Roads.	Works.	Roads.
Singapore	-	-	-	\$ 596,098	\$ 73,904	\$ 685,365	\$ 25,354
Penang	-	-	-	327,595	123,904	234,006	100,164
Malacca	-	-	-	71,084	84,405	43,827	75,874
Total	-	-	-	994,722	282,213	963,198	201,392

* Probate duty was paid on an exceptionally large estate in Penang in 1886.

† The salaries of the Public Works Establishments as borne on the Estimates for 1886 were as follows :—

Singapore	-	-	-	-	\$ 37,440
Penang	-	-	-	-	24,788
Malacca	-	-	-	-	15,360
					<u>77,588</u>

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.Principal
works.

8. The following are the principal works undertaken, carried on, or completed in 1886 :—

Principal Works.	Estimated Cost.	Actual Payment. Completed Works.		Actual Payments. Works in progress.	
		1886.	Prior to 1886.	Prior to 1886.	1886.
SINGAPORE.					
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Teluk Ayer Reclamation -	569,320 00	—	—	551,286 43	13,030 40
Library and Museum -	83,530 00	—	—	20,749 29	36,594 42
Erection of new offices for Protector of Chinese	40,500 00	18,856 98	21,644 00	—	—
New Kampong Malacca Bridge -	52,749 00	28,825 24	24,215 92	—	—
New River Wall and Quay, North and South Kampong, Malacca -	100,400 00	—	—	56,813 79	14,993 65
Construction of new lunatic asylum -	239,354 00	—	—	78,478 94	91,770 78
Improvements to Singapore river -	93,496 00	—	—	95,472 12	9,991 25
New Central Police Station	140,219 00	—	—	105,220 36	25,007 07
Coleman Bridge -	80,000 00	25,000 00	54,872 34	—	—
Pulau Pisang Lighthouse	39,500 00	8,246 67	34,165 45	—	—
PENANG.					
<i>Civil Works and Buildings.</i>					
Renewing Butterworth Police Barracks -	13,530 00	7,529 60	6,000 00	—	—
Renewing Brick Kiln Road Police Barracks -	10,150 00	5,149 72	4,999 59	—	—
Reclamation scheme	518,914 00	—	—	341,795 52	77,842 84
Nibong Tebal water supply	25,000 00	24,998 91	—	—	—
Prevention of River Muda floods -	—	—	—	11,790 02	9,999 58
New Government Offices -	250,000 00	—	—	10,151 51	17,317 25
<i>Roads, Streets, and Bridges.</i>					
Re-metalling road from Kwala Prai to Bukit Tengah -	16,100 00	8,095 37	7,998 35	—	—
Metalling road from Sungai Bakap Hospital to Nibong Tebal -	20,550 00	—	—	—	10,540 96
Constructing second class road in Trans-Krian -	22,000 00	—	—	4,968 72	9,999 25
Constructing new road from Nior Sebatang via Padang Manorah to Kubang Semang -	—	—	—	—	4,999 96
Construction of Hill Road to Balik Pulau by Ghinting Pass -	81,500 00	—	—	62,009 19	10,499 75
MALACCA.					
New pier -	32,000 00	—	—	5,079 80	3,159 44
New police station barracks and outbuildings at Jerat Gungei -	4,300 00	4,298 40	—	—	—
Construction and maintenance of Vernacular Schools -	8,000 00	7,999 61	—	—	—
Making a cart road from Sungai Bharu to Lubok China -	21,000 00	11,499 70	9,999 74	—	—

Military expenditure.

9. The expenditure classed in the accounts as military expenditure includes the Colony's annual contribution of \$235,976 towards the expenditure on account of Her Majesty's troops quartered in the Colony and some minor expenses for rent allowances to officers, &c. The cost of the up-keep of military buildings amounted to \$36,203.

10. The amount exhibited in the statement of assets and liabilities as due on the 31st December 1886 under Debenture Loan, \$250,461, represents (at exchange of 3s. 3d. to the dollar) the unredeemed balance, 40,700*l.*, of a loan of 100,000*l.* at four and a half per cent. interest contracted in 1877. The loan is in course of redemption through a sinking fund, at the rate of five and a half per cent. per annum. The amount so redeemed in 1887 will be 5,500*l.* (five and a half per cent. on 100,000*l.*), plus the amount, 2,668*l.*, of the interest at four and a half per cent. on the portion 59,300*l.*, redeemed up to the close of 1886.

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

Assets and
liabilities.
Public debt.

Local Revenues.

11. The following statement gives the revenue and expenditure of the municipalities of the three Settlements for 1885 and 1886, and particulars of their assets and liabilities at the close of each year :—

Municipal
accounts

Municipalities.	1885.	1886.
REVENUE:	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Singapore - - - -	506,633	464,748
Penang - - - -	288,156	220,447
Malacca - - - -	27,089	27,399
	821,878	712,594
EXPENDITURE:		
Singapore - - - -	468,124	486,173
Penang - - - -	263,273	234,937
Malacca - - - -	27,151	29,026
	758,548	750,136
CASH BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore - - - -	38,509	17,085
Penang - - - -	30,933	16,443
Malacca - - - -	2,275	648
	71,717	34,176
LOANS OUTSTANDING AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore (Government) - -	230,000	230,000
Penang do. - - - -	197,500	187,500
Malacca do. - - - -	25,000	25,000
	452,500	442,500

LEGISLATION.

Ordinances.

12. The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year 1886. All have received the gracious confirmation and allowance of Her Majesty the Queen, with the

Ordinances
passed in 1886.

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

exception of No. VIII., as to which no decision has been as yet notified.

No. I.—An Ordinance for the registration of imports and exports.

No. II.—An Ordinance to regulate the alienation and occupation of Crown lands.

No. III.—An Ordinance to render unlawful the infliction on females of the punishment of whipping.

No. IV.—An Ordinance for making better provision for the collection of the land revenue of the Crown.

No. V.—An Ordinance for making temporary provision for securing the status of French mail steamers at the ports of the Colony.

No. VI.—An Ordinance for simplifying and improving the practice of conveyancing and for vesting in trustees, mortgagees, and others, various powers commonly conferred by provisions inserted in settlements, mortgages, wills, and other instruments, and for amending in various particulars the law of vendor and purchaser and of property, and for other purposes.

No. VII.—An Ordinance to provide for the use of uniform weights and measures throughout the Colony.

No. VIII.—An Ordinance for the resumption by the Crown of certain unsurrendered rights over lands in the Settlement of Malacca.

No. IX.—An Ordinance to declare and amend the law relating to customary rights in land in Malacca.

No. X.—An Ordinance for making final provision for the Public Service for the year 1885.

No. XI.—An Ordinance for making the territory and Islands of the Dingdings part of the settlement of Singapore and to provide for the government of the same.

No. XII.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to bills of sale.

No. XIII.—An Ordinance to provide for the registration of deeds and other instruments.

No. XIV.—An Ordinance for making provision for the Public Service for the year 1887.

No. XV.—An Ordinance to provide for the preservation of copies of books printed in the Colony and for the registration of such books.

No. XVI.—An Ordinance to prevent the bringing on board any ship or vessel belonging to Her Majesty or the sale to seamen belonging to such ship or vessel of any spirituous or fermented liquor without the consent of the commander of such ship.

No. XVII.—An Ordinance to declare and amend the law as to the costs of advocates and solicitors of the Supreme Court and the taxation thereof.

No. XVIII.—An Ordinance to amend "The Petroleum Ordinance, 1883."

No. XIX.—An Ordinance to make provision for preventing the introduction and spread of infectious and contagious diseases.

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

No. XX.—An Ordinance to amend the law with respect to fictitious postage stamps.

No. XXI.—An Ordinance to render unlawful the sale by retail of exciseable articles elsewhere than in duly licensed places.

No. XXII.—An Ordinance to amend the law respecting costs recovered by the Crown.

No. XXIII.—An Ordinance to provide for the registration of domestic servants and to declare and amend the law respecting contracts of domestic service.

Post Office.

13. The following statements give particulars of the business Letters, &c. transacted in 1885 and 1886 respectively:—

	1885.		1886.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters - - -	781,915	799,851	792,674	1,038,511
Post Cards - -	6,506	11,678	13,305	14,374
Newspapers - -	350,872	314,006	372,041	308,838
Books - - -	48,440	28,990	55,422	38,515
Patterns - - -	8,769	5,735	10,438	6,843
Parcels - - -	2,999	2,178	3,102	3,672
Total - - -	1,199,501	1,162,438	1,246,872	1,400,646

Money Orders.	Issued.	Paid.	Issued.	Paid.	Money Orders.
United Kingdom - £	3,992.5.1	278.7.0	3,515.7.5	372.13.7	
Straits Settlements - \$	6,251.25	6,306.95	8,597.68	8,592.16	
China and Japan - \$	2,616.61	1,785.34	2,494.26	1,354.56	
Native States - - \$	1,839.09	16,590.82	2,379.32	21,358.86	
Ceylon - - -Rs.	11,269.59	806.10	16,564.67	724.42	
India - - -Rs.	78,069.8.0	3,865.2.0	89,524.6.0	6,996.8.0	
Johor - - - \$	138.05	2,616.70	80.80	2,109.76	
Labuan - - - \$	35.00	20.00	87.40	684.05	
Australian Colonies - £	57.1.9	115.14.8	106.19.1	67.5.6	
British Postal Orders - £	609.10.6	—	2,324.8.0	—	
Colonial Postal Orders \$	1,791.00	1,091.00	1,784.00	1,867.00	

**STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.**

Singapore,
Penang, and
Malacca.

Savings Bank.

14. Particulars of the business transacted by the banks in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca are giving in the following statement :—

	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened - - -	215	108	19
Accounts closed - - -	212	108	8
Accounts open at the end of the year -	458	162	25
Deposited, 1886 - - -	$\begin{smallmatrix} \$ & c. \\ 44,955 & 31 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} \$ & c. \\ 19,225 & 80 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} \$ & c. \\ 2,945 & 00 \end{smallmatrix}$
Repaid, 1886 - - -	53,110 96	19,768 49	1,598 84
Balance due to depositors at close of 1886 - - -	78,357 84	22,986 88	3,475 27

Education.

15. The number of schools in the several Settlements, and the number of children attending (average enrolment) in 1885 and 1886, are given in the following table :—

	1885.		1886.	
	No. of Schools.	Average Enrolment.	No. of Schools.	Average Enrolment.
SINGAPORE.				
English Boys' Schools - - -	12	1,658	9	1,519
Do. Girls' do. - - -	3	399	2	209
English and Vernacular Boys' Schools - - -	—	—	2	187
Do. Girls' do. - - -	1	188	1	190
Vernacular Boys' Schools - - -	23	781	21	719
Do. Girls' do. - - -	—	—	5	74
Total - - -	39	3,026	40	2,848
PENANG.				
English Boys' Schools - - -	4	1,048	5	1,169
Do. Girls' do. - - -	4	337	2	55
English and Vernacular Boys' Schools - - -	1	41	2	78
Do. Girls' do. - - -	1	224	2	291
Vernacular Boys' Schools - - -	21	1,161	25	1,468
Do. Girls' do. - - -	4	68	6	247
Total - - -	35	2,879	42	3,308

	1885.		1885.	
	No. of Schools.	Average Enrol- ment.	No. of Schools.	Average Enrol- ment.
PROVINCE WELLESLEY.				
English and Vernacular Boys' Schools -	5	141	5	144
Vernacular Boys' Schools - - -	36	1,298	36	1,477
Do. Girls' do. - - -	—	—	3	107
Total - - -	41	1,439	46	1,728
MALACCA.				
English Boys' Schools - - -	3	511	3	530
Do. Girls' do. - - -	3	161	3	177
Vernacular Boys' Schools - - -	48	1,788	63	1,788
Do. Girls' do. - - -	—	—	6	122
Total - - -	54	2,460	75	2,617
Grand Total - - -	169	2,804	208	10,501

Population.

16. The census of 1881 gave the following results in regard to Census.
the population of the Settlements :—

	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Europeans - - -	2,207	563	565	100	31	9	2,803	680
Eurasians - - -	1,509	1,585	751	846	1,075	1,138	3,335	3,569
Malays - - -	11,471	10,684	42,500	42,512	32,784	34,729	86,615	87,625
Chinese - - -	72,571	14,195	55,313	12,507	15,721	4,020	143,605	30,722
Indians - - -	9,619	2,459	20,337	6,099	1,148	743	31,104	9,881
Other Nationalities -	8,046	4,320	4,679	4,019	1,300	881	14,025	9,220
Total - - -	105,423	23,785	124,205	66,592	52,069	41,520	281,687	141,697
	139,208		190,897		93,579		425,334	

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

*Chinese.*STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.Chinese immi-
grants.

17. The number of Chinese immigrants that arrived in Singapore in 1886 was 151,576, as against 119,555 in 1885. The following figures show how they were disposed of:—

	1885.	1886.
Remained in Singapore—		
Male - - -	69,314	87,331
Female - - -	2,014	2,345
Proceeded to Penang—		
Male - - -	44,096	56,596
Female - - -	1,528	1,792
Proceeded to Malacca—		
Male - - -	438	551
Female - - -	37	20
Proceeded to other places—		
Male - - -	1,797	2,384
Female - - -	331	557
Total - - -	119,555	151,576

Contracts to
labour beyond
the Colony.

18. Contracts to labour beyond the Colony were entered into by coolies at Singapore to the number of 18,166 in 1886, as against 10,209 in 1885. At Penang the numbers were, for 1886, 18,525, as against 14,335 in 1885.

No complete
records of
retro-migra-
tion, migration
between the
Settlements
and emigration.

19. No records are kept of the numbers of Chinese who return to China, nor are records kept of the number of those who move from one Settlement to another, except in the case of the newly arrived coolies who pass on at once (*see* the foregoing statement) to Penang or Malacca, immediately after their arrival in Singapore. The numbers of emigrants to the Protected States and to Sumatra and other places are but imperfectly indicated by the numbers of contracts to labour beyond the Colony given in paragraph 18.

*Indian.*Indian immi-
gration and
retro-migra-
tion.

20. The following are the statistics of the immigration and retro-migration of Indian coolies, as recorded in the Department of the Indian Protectorate at Penang:—

	1885.	1886.
Statute immigrants - - -	1,649	2,748
Dependants - - -	49	244
Passengers - - -	19,819	17,316
Total arrivals - - -	21,510	20,308
Returned to India - - -	13,417	18,105
Immigrants remaining in the Colony	8,093	2,203

Trade and Shipping.

21. The following table gives the values of the imports and exports at the three Settlements in 1885 and 1886 :—

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.
—
Imports and
exports.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
Singapore - - -	74,288,990	77,277,536	61,428,238	60,578,615
Penang - - -	33,169,461	41,194,292	35,937,583	40,212,507
Malacca - - -	2,898,845	3,072,390	3,147,401	3,381,152
Total - - -	110,356,796	121,544,218	100,513,222	104,122,274

22. The numbers and tonnage of the vessels arrived at, and Shipping. cleared from, the ports of the three Settlements in 1885 and 1886, are given in the following table :—

	ARRIVALS.			
	1885.		1886.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Singapore - - -	8,539	2,702,921	8,796	2,788,960
Penang - - -	4,460	1,837,539	4,484	1,508,854
Malacca - - -	2,310	188,901	3,012	227,634
Total - - -	15,309	4,229,351	16,292	4,474,948

(continued.)

	DEPARTURES.			
	1885.		1886.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Singapore - - -	8,532	2,651,951	8,802	2,687,298
Penang - - -	4,920	1,341,220	5,146	1,342,240
Malacca - - -	2,321	189,362	3,050	228,260
Total - - -	15,773	4,182,533	16,998	4,257,798

*Public Health.*STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

23. The registration returns of deaths in 1885 and 1886 give the following results:—

	1885.	1886.	Increase.
Singapore - - - -	5,749	6,308	559
Penang - - - -	3,720	3,795	75
Province Wellesley - - - -	2,161	2,697	536
Malacca - - - -	2,465	2,468	3
Total - - - -	14,095	15,268	1,173

24. The increase in the rate of mortality is attributed to an unusual influx of Chinese immigrants, many of whom arrive in bad health.

Prevalent
diseases.Births in 1885
and 1886.

25. The following are the births registered in 1885 and 1886:—

	1885.	1886.	Increase.
Singapore - - - -	2,608	2,887	279
Penang - - - -	1,605	1,807	202
Province Wellesley - - - -	2,240	2,551	311
Malacca - - - -	2,715	3,205	490
Total - - - -	9,168	10,450	1,282

26. The two sexes are pretty evenly distributed in Malacca, while the disproportion between them is great in Penang, and greater still in Singapore. Hence Malacca shows the highest birth-rate, which is low in Singapore and Penang.

Cases reported
to the police.*27. Police and Crime.*

	1885.				1886.			
	Cases reported.	Cases discovered.	Cases undiscovered.	Cases in which Com-plainant advised to proceed by Summons.	Cases reported.	Cases discovered.	Cases undiscovered.	Cases in which Com-plainant advised to proceed by Summons.
Singapore - - -	2,206	1,326	940	730	2,680	1,478	1,302	725
Penang - - -	6,076	4,198	1,878	3,301	5,798	3,773	2,021	2,017
Malacca - - -	641	432	209	148	634	406	228	237
Total - - -	8,923	5,956	3,027	4,179	9,107	5,658	3,440	3,929

Judicial.

28. Statistical returns of the cases dealt with by the Supreme Court on the civil and criminal sides, by the Courts of Requests, and by the police and marine magistrates, are given in the Appendix.*

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.Judicial
returns.*Prisons.*

29. In each of the Settlements there is a "civil" and a "criminal" prison. In the civil prisons are confined prisoners sentenced to "simple imprisonment," prisoners awaiting trial, prisoners under sentence of death, and prisoners for debt. Prisoners confined in the criminal prisons are those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, who are divided into the following classes:—

Civil and
criminal
prisons.

- (1.) "Revenue grade" (prisoners for non-payment of fine).
- (2.) Short-sentence prisoners (sentences not exceeding six months).
- (3.) Long-sentence prisoners.

All long-sentence prisoners from Malacca and Penang are sent up to the Singapore Prison.

Native States.

30. The Colonial Blue Book does not include returns relating to the Protected States of the Malay Peninsula, but the connexion of these countries with the Colonial Government is so close that the brief abstracts of the Treasury accounts and of the trade returns of the three States, which will be found in the Appendix,* may not be considered out of place at the close of this epitome.

(Signed) J. F. DICKSON,

Singapore, 10th May 1887.

Colonial Secretary.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

MALACCA.

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

MALACCA.

No. 12.

Governor Sir F. A. WELD to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Singapore.

SIR,

May 11, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you six copies of the Administration Report, Malacca, for the year 1886.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. A. WELD,

Governor.

The Right Hon.

Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., M.P., G.C.M.G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

* Not printed.

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT, MALACCA, 1886.

Resident Councillor's Office, Malacca,
March 26, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Administration Report of this Settlement, compiled from the statistics and reports furnished by the heads of the various departments.

2. I have divided the report as much as possible into two divisions, that of revenue and that of expenditure. Under the former I have reported in detail on the collecting departments, and under the latter on those which expend money.

Comparative tables for the past five years are given throughout.

REVENUE.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.
Land -	64,190 44	66,778 57	66,556 09	63,469 54	63,896 75
Rents, exclusive of land -	736 22	579 00	363 50	978 43	1,179 84
Licenses -	101,741 00	191,794 00	191,801 00	191,760 00	192,360 00
Stamps -	12,234 85	11,541 63	12,403 56	15,196 57	13,904 16
Port and harbour dues -	941 72	980 65	1,284 32	1,485 68	1,610 23
Postage -	1,211 63	1,778 33	1,835 64	2,163 66	2,410 51
Fines, &c. -	4,183 40	3,817 40	2,758 39	2,439 40	3,225 55
Fees of office -	906 95	1,778 40	1,483 70	1,705 35	2,046 32
Reimbursements -	4,734 27	6,574 86	8,289 63	9,812 18	8,148 69
Sale of Government property -	84 39	81 10	106 79	172 93	165 76
Interest -	—	—	4 09	—	2,740 41
Miscellaneous -	33 99	33 50	996 03	723 04	3 90
Special receipts -	830 00	1,151 00	984 00	1,014 00	1,073 80
Total -	191,820 86	226,881 94	226,186 73	290,960 78	292,660 63

3. The revenue amounted to \$292,660.03, being \$1,710 more than that of 1885, and \$4,905 above the amount estimated.

4. The revenue shows healthiness in almost all points of importance, the receipts under land, stamps, port and harbour dues, and postage having exceeded the amounts estimated, as well as the receipts in the previous year. There are no deficiencies of any importance; the main item occurs under reimbursements, which realised \$1,642 less than was estimated.

5. The foregoing table gives a comparison of revenue for the last five years. It is satisfactory to observe that each year shows an increased total over the preceding one.

REVENUE DETAILED.

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*Land.**Area of Land under Leases.*

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Acres - - -	118,760	109,191	105,781	108,486	100,314
Gross rent - -	\$ 59,592	\$ 57,828	\$ 56,966	\$ 62,082	\$ 56,092

Land Revenue Receipts Detailed.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Premium - - -	\$ 646	\$ 2,393	\$ 1,948	\$ 1,186	\$ 2,619
Rents (current) - -	49,580	50,708	52,584	50,448	50,077
Do. (arrears) - -	3,257	4,788	1,812	2,100	2,750
Tenths, coral and granite -	375	381	398	304	355
Do. tin - - -	850	794	345	816	498
Do. brick-kiln - -	94	112	244	281	188
Do. padi - - -	1,680	1,393	2,802	4,081	3,231
Do. wood-oil - -	498	520	496	626	548
Do. gambier - -	1,080	797	999	446	802
Do. tapioca - -	3,488	1,619	1,615	376	657
Do. fruit - - -	480	719	999	1,454	907
Do. timber - - -	2,029	1,709	1,683	1,882	928
Do. sand - - -	507	768	598	493	330
Fees, registration - -	167	121	31	96	115
„ others - - -	—	—	—	—	405
Total - - -	64,190	66,772	66,556	63,469	*63,896

* The omission of cents in the detailed items affects the additions slightly.

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6. The revenue under this heading has slightly exceeded that of 1885, and is \$2,897 more than was estimated.

7. The padi crop was not good, and the fruit season failed, with the exception of durians; the receipts under these items show a decrease on the preceding year.

8. Premium has increased considerably; the increase is principally accounted for by three large leases taken out for tapioca cultivation, but besides this, grants were considerably in demand.

9. There is every hope that the land revenue will be considerably increased in the course of the next few years, and this can be done without any undue pressure upon the cultivators and others concerned.

10. In Malacca land contributes by far the most important part to the revenue. From the position and circumstances of the Settlement it is not possible to expect a rapid increase to trade. Malacca possesses fewer natural sources of wealth than the other Settlements or the Native States; it is therefore of the utmost importance to encourage cultivators, and to put the collection of land revenue on a proper footing.

11. In past years this has been hampered with many difficulties. Land has been held under many different systems of tenure, and the many incomplete or partial attempts which have been made from time to time to modify or alter them have only resulted in greater confusion. Holdings were not defined or surveyed; there has been want of adequate supervision which has told in two ways: Government has received nothing like a fair return in rents, and its land has been notoriously trespassed upon and appropriated in a most audacious manner.

12. The old system generally was the native one, the understanding being that Government was entitled to one tenth of the yield either from jungle produce or from cultivation. Land uncultivated and unpaid for for three years was forfeited. The Pēnghûlu of the district was usually employed to collect the tenth. It is evident that this system is open to considerable abuse, and the result (at any rate to Government) has not been satisfactory.

13. It will be understood that the system of paying tenths on produce offered temptations to subordinate collectors, as well as to those who had to pay—a result which must be demoralising to every one concerned. Those who advocate keeping up this form of tenure cannot have studied the matter sufficiently to appreciate the difficulties with which it is surrounded, nor the fact that its popularity among the people merely arises from the chance afforded of evading payment of taxes.

14. Some of the attempts to do away with "tenths" have been by the issue of commutation deeds and of leases on various short terms; the rents, however, were fixed at very low rates, probably more with a view to getting land under a fixed rate and tenure than with a due estimate of what the land yielded, and what a fair rent should have been. Many of these leases have expired,

but as all holdings are to be demarcated and registered they will be dealt with, and the persons concerned may, as they elect, either take out grants, or remain on the land paying a fixed assessment under Ordinance IX. of 1886.

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15. A careful estimate of the yield of padi has been commenced with a view to a fair assessment, and I hope that next year a great step will be taken in putting the land revenue on a more satisfactory footing, both as regards the amount and the system of collection. To give some idea of the disproportionate rates which have prevailed, I may mention that experiments have already shown that as much and more than 600 gantangs of padi can be obtained under favourable circumstances to an acre of land.

Six hundred (600) gantangs would yield about \$30, the tenth for which would be \$3. It will be seen what proportion a rent of 25 cents bears to this value. Hitherto the best land has been assessed at 300 gantangs only.

16. With reference to these reforms in the land department there is this difficulty to contend with, that hitherto people have practically held the land for next to nothing, and some discontent has been raised at the prospect of having to pay rent in the future. It is obvious that the interests of large proprietors are chiefly involved, and there are some, I regret to say, who are not unwilling to promote a feeling of discontent in order to assist their own purposes. I have, however, almost invariably found the Malay peasantry most docile and easy to deal with. An explanation that their rents are a contribution to Government for the advantages of roads, protection, and free schools, is generally listened to with respect and rather treated as a new idea. Unfortunately, the view that any demand by Government is an unjust exaction has too often been promulgated by misguided or mischievous persons.

17. Greatly exaggerated statements having been circulated respecting land at Merlimau, said to be deserted, I think it worth while to allude briefly to the subject. These statements, which I attribute mainly to the source indicated in my previous paragraph, are that the small cultivators in the districts of Merlimau, Sebatu, and Sungei Rambei have deserted their holdings on account of oppressive taxes and land regulations, and have gone over to the adjoining Native State of Muar. The number of emigrants has been vaguely stated at thousands, and by an easy process of amplification where accuracy is not requisite this has been magnified into depopulation of the country. Inquiry showed that a certain amount of emigration had taken place to Muar since that country was opened out. The offer of free land to those who would clear naturally attracted some of our people. Comparatively few left this country for good, and most of these so-called emigrants kept a partial hold on their land in Malacca. Cultivation, however, was neglected to a great extent, and rents were in arrear. As these lands were held under the Malay custom of payment of tenths, the right to them became forfeited by failure to cultivate and to pay. I therefore made it known that they would be given on

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application to any one desiring them. This brought in applications from Javanese and others, some for a considerable extent of land, and it also brought back the old tenants in large numbers, who had no wish to lose their holdings. The main difficulty now was to satisfy a rival demand. As I had promised first terms to the old tenants, and as I found, too, that their complaints of losses by bad seasons and flooded rivers were not unfounded, I directed that they should give in their names for registration to the Pëngthulus of their districts, for the purpose of reinstating them. As it now appears, the whole available land will be taken up, partly by the old holders and partly by new applicants.

18. With regard to tapioca cultivation, I would strongly endorse Mr. Hervey's view that it should be supported as far as possible. It is true that the Chinese method of cultivation—that of working only fresh land—is very wasteful, but ordinary cultivation by the use of manure is almost impossible, as manure can only be got by importation, and the additional expense of transport to the interior renders the price prohibitive.

19. The contingent advantages obtained by the encouragement of this industry overbalance the disadvantages. Against shorter tenure, and the abandonment of land in a state which requires a long period to restore it to any value, we have a larger area taken up at a higher premium and rent, and the introduction of a tax-paying population which materially affects our main source of revenue—the opium and spirit farms. As increased reserves of forest land sufficient for the requirements of the Settlement have been set apart for permanent preservation, I do not see the necessity for refusing the little that remains, none of which contains valuable timber, to tapioca planters. On the contrary, I think that the land would be best utilised in keeping up this industry for the present.

20. One hundred and seventy-nine (179) hundredweights of tin have been smelted this year. Specimens of tin ore have been brought in lately from two different districts, and I am led to believe these would repay working. I think that in order to ascertain the resources of the country and of the neighbouring States the geological and mineralogical survey recommended by Mr. Hervey would be worth the expense.

21. Revenue from timber must be expected to fall, as Malacca has been almost cleared of the valuable portion of its forests. His Excellency the Governor was good enough to sanction my recommendation that permission should be given to people in country districts to cut valueless wood for fences, firing, &c., &c. without the necessity of their first coming into town to obtain licenses. Although licenses were in many cases given free, the journey to get them was a loss and inconvenience, and the concession represents a considerable boon to the peasantry.

22. Another benefit his Excellency has bestowed is that in cases of deserted padi land, or in places where no return can be obtained without outlay of money or labour, a remission of rent from one to three years may be granted, according to circumstances. The issuing of grants is often delayed more than is desirable.

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The Survey Department is not sufficiently strong to keep up with any brisk demand, and the rule in force requiring the Surveyor General personally to sign each grant adds to the delay, as he cannot do this until he has verified the plans. I think it would be an advantage if the certificate of the local head of the Survey Department was accepted instead.

23. Preliminary charges for survey have yielded a large return, but this is a source of revenue I do not wish to see extended. These charges, I am glad to say, have been reduced, and I would recommend that this course be continued as far as possible, as such charges press unduly on the small landowners who generally can least afford it.

24. Another matter in which the assistance of Government is being given is the clearance of rivers and drains, which will no doubt be of considerable benefit. It is a matter which has been very much neglected, and much land has been damaged or rendered useless in consequence. In former days the Pēnghûlu could call out the people of his district for such purposes, but now any such appeal or order is disregarded, and the cost is greatly enhanced.

Licenses

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Opium - -	\$ 72,600	\$ 153,600	\$ 153,600	\$ 153,600	\$ 147,600
Spirit - -	27,000	34,200	34,200	34,200	39,000
Public-houses - -	41	34	41	*	*
Pawnbroker - -	2,100	3,960	3,960	3,960	5,760
Total - -	101,741	191,794	191,801	191,760	192,360

* Shown under fees of office.

25. The revenue under this heading has been varied as above, the farms being let together to one farmer.

26. The increase on the total over last year is \$600, but as regards opium I regret to say that the farmer complains that he has been a loser on the contract. I think, however, that it is only a temporary matter; trade, it must be remembered, has been very dull, and many Chinese left the Settlement in consequence of losses on tapioca cultivation. The latter has revived and a larger number than usual of Chinese coolies has been imported this season, over 3,000 having been landed—a number sufficient to affect the farms considerably.

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Stamps.

	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Revenue (Commercial) -	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,714	\$ 6,223	\$ 6,719	\$ 6,840
Judicial - - -	6,434	5,826	6,179	8,477	7,464
Total - - -	12,234	11,540	12,402	15,196	13,804

27. The receipts under this head amount to \$13,804, being \$804 more than was estimated. The amount may be considered satisfactory, as although it does not reach the total of the previous year (which was abnormally affected by special receipts), it shows a sound progress over any other year but the last.

Other Items of Revenue.

28. Of those calling for notice I would mention port and harbour dues, which continue to increase yearly; the receipts for 1886 amount to \$1,610.23, \$110 more than was estimated. Post Office collections also continue to increase steadily. The receipts in this department have doubled since 1882, as will be observed in the table of statistics.

EXPENDITURE

	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Establishments:—					
Salaries - -	78,352 76	90,732 99	98,780 43	106,077 43	122,984 87
Office contingencies	999 08	842 93	770 50	809 71	984 37
Allowances - -	—	—	—	—	2,210 81
Total establishments - }	80,251 84	91,575 92	99,551 02	106,887 14	126,180 05
Pensions - -	7,739 88	7,966 20	8,301 24	8,639 02	8,969 92
Revenue services -	3,212 74	6,700 84	5,000 44	5,723 14	7,169 95
Administration of justice -	384 70	329 09	356 37	441 67	712 90
Ecclesiastical - -	229 08	320 50	280 00	300 00	299 95
Charitable allowances	998 00	990 00	1,080 00	1,016 50	1,033 20
Education - -	11,470 87	14,210 07	18,731 08	25,048 15	7,425 19
Medical - -	7,043 17	6,069 16	7,022 10	7,994 34	8,077 88
Police - -	1,087 78	1,228 72	1,500 41	2,079 34	2,099 90
Gaols - -	1,648 59	2,100 78	2,753 88	1,935 23	1,906 79
Harbour - -	280 79	391 57	468 06	861 05	764 50
Lighthouses -	1,566 12	1,655 39	1,693 98	2,662 43	2,367 59
Government vessels	896 82	1,166 42	1,384 00	1,809 75	2,495 48

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—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Conveyance of mails -	312 43	374 90	557 08	637 10	601 15
Rent - - -	890 79	1,317 60	1,129 10	—	400 32
Transport - -	8,168 09	9,752 40	11,119 15	11,406 14	13,002 59
Interest - - -	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous services	1,607 65	1,928 11	6,700 22	8,933 08	9,111 17
Works and buildings	43,057 98	62,802 89	52,371 71	66,013 93	43,407 24
Roads, streets, and bridges	43,945 37	47,758 38	64,885 39	84,485 70	75,920 35
Land and houses purchased - -	290 00	—	3,556 00	998 00	209 35
Special expenses -	2,758 11	66 10	150 49	1,114 31	1,619 30
Native states - -	—	4,457 95	34,828 57	48,000 00	—
Total - -	216,896 35	263,180 29	323,489 24	396,406 01	313,863 77

29. The estimated expenditure was \$388,450, but the actual amounted to \$313,863, a difference of \$74,587.

30. This large difference is mainly accounted for by certain public works which were not carried out. The omission of expenditure on Native States also affects the total expenditure as compared with previous years.

31. The comparative tables give a false impression of a large increase in the cost of the "Establishments." It is explained by certain salaries, &c., formerly shown under other heads of service, being now classed as Establishments.

From the vote for schools there is in this way an increase of \$15,960, but a corresponding diminution will be observed under "Education."

32. There was an increase to the staff of the Survey Department to the extent of \$2,100, and to that of the Police \$1,728. In the Supreme Court a Chinese interpreter was added at \$600 a year.

33. There is again an increase in "Transport," but a greater supervision in outlying districts necessitates this. It is also an expenditure which generally well repays the cost.

Works and Buildings.

34. I regret that under this heading there should be a list chiefly of what has not been done. The construction of the new iron pier, which it was hoped would be completed this year, has been delayed since 1885 owing to the delay in deciding upon plans, and as to whether the contracts should be given in England or in the colony. The old pier is in a dangerous state, but it is necessary to keep it up pending the building of the new one, for

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the convenience of landing at low tide, as otherwise no one could land without wading for a long distance.

35. Demarcation of the frontier has been delayed on the southern side, as the line of division between Malacca and Muar has not finally been settled.

36. The building of the new Residency, although much needed, has been postponed indefinitely.

37. The failure chiefly to be regretted is that of a water supply for the town. The site proposed at Machap was no doubt unsuitable, and it was clearly necessary to abandon that scheme. I trust, however, that some means will be devised of supplying this most pressing want of the Settlement. At present the town is partly but most inadequately supplied by wells, in many of which the water is not fit for drinking purposes. Some is brought from Bukit China about a mile off, where there are good springs. In times of drought when wells dry up the scarcity is very severely felt, and I believe that there is no doubt that this was one main cause of the outbreak of cholera in 1882.

38. Besides the usual expenditure in up-keep of existing buildings, a new police station has been built at Jirat Gungei on the Rembau frontier, and additions of stables, bath-rooms, &c. have been made at the Police Stations of Alor Gajah, Ohin Chin, Sungei Rambei, Merlimau, and Ulu Batang Malaka.

39. Some additions to the public offices, and the construction of four vernacular schools, have been the only other works of any importance.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

40. New roads have been finished between Sungei Bharu and Lubok China, and between Jasin and Chabow. The improvement to the gradients of existing roads has also been carried on by making deviations at the worst spots.

41. Forty-two stone culverts have been substituted for timber ones in various parts of the country. Six bridges have been constructed and some new coolie stations built.

42. With regard to bridges and culverts, I have already advocated the substitution of iron material for wood. The former would probably not cost more than 25 to 30 per cent. in the first instance than the latter, while the saving in wear and up-keep would be very great, as the "life" of a wooden bridge can hardly be reckoned at much more than five to six years, with a heavy cost for up-keep, while that of iron would probably be at least 20 years with a less cost for up-keep. If this idea was carried out in a wholesale way for the entire Colony no doubt a large saving would result. Approved patterns of the various sizes for culverts and bridges, with the necessary details for setting up, might be registered, and contracts taken here or at home for the supply.

Forest Department.

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43. The expenditure on the Department has been as follows:—

	\$	c.
Salaries - - - -	1,654	10
Personal allowance when in the field -	103	00
Transport - - - -	555	84
Rent - - - -	110	00
Uniforms of guardians, tools and im- plements - - - -	220	31
Purchase of land and compensation to squatters, Bukit Sa'Bukor -	834	00
Demarcation of reserves - -	734	39
Planting waste lands and weeding -	20	00
Formation and up-keep of nurseries -	306	02
Survey fees - - - -	345	67
Collecting herbarium specimens and seeds - - - -	400	42
Miscellaneous expenses - -	270	25
Total - - - -	5,554	00

44. The work of the Forest Department during the year has been satisfactory, a marked improvement having occurred since the arrival of Mr. Derry as Assistant Superintendent of Forests for the Settlement. I anticipate great future benefit to the Settlement, if the same care and supervision is continued.

45. To ensure a really beneficial effect on the climate, it is considered necessary that the reserves of forest land should be in large blocks, and this arrangement is found to be more economical as to working than a large number of smaller blocks. Seven reserves are marked off in different parts of the Settlement. Five of these are now surveyed and demarcated. The approximate total area is 16,320 acres, with 56 miles of boundaries.

46. Bukit Bruang reserve, about six miles from town, is well wooded and rises to an elevation of about 500 feet. It has an area of 1,734 acres. Among other timbers it contains a large percentage of *tampenis*, one of the best and most durable in the Peninsula. A small area of waste land in the reserve has been planted with seedlings of this raised in the nursery.

47. An addition of 1,900 acres at Ayer Panas has been made to the old reserve at Kesan, almost doubling its original size. This is a most important position, occupying as it does a central site in the midst of a much cleared country. The public roads form the boundaries, except for 4½ miles on the western side, so there is

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little cost for the maintenance of these. The addition to the reserve is well wooded, but except at the edges large trees are scarce in the old portion in consequence of depredations in former times, but these have been stopped by placing watchmen in charge.

48. Bukit Panchor reserve, 16 miles from town, has an area of 3,640 acres, and rises to an elevation of 600 feet. About 340 acres of waste land formerly under tapioca cultivation has been included, and is fast becoming re-wooded. This reserve covers the central hill-chain of the Settlement, and is of special importance for protecting the sources of springs.

49. The most important work of the year has been done at the Sungei Udang reserve, 13 miles from town. The reserve has been rounded by an addition of about 2,880 acres, inspection paths have been cut through, and the boundary paths put in proper order. A small nursery has been begun where it is proposed to transplant some of the seedling mahogany trees received from Kew, for the purpose of planting out in waste land in the vicinity. This reserve contains some fine specimens of the most valuable timbers of the Settlement. The land is undulating and well watered by small streams, but is not swampy, and from its position near the sea-coast it has facilities for transport. The Superintendent of Forests considers that this should become our best timber depôt in future.

50. Merlimau reserve of 4,000 acres in the south, Brisu on the north 2,247 acres, and a large district at Jus complete the list.

51. It has been contemplated for some time past to establish an experimental garden at Bukit Sibukor, four miles from town, and the work of clearing was begun before the end of the year. It had to be suspended owing to various delays, but it is again put in hand, and I hope the garden will be in order before the close of 1887. The site is a pretty one and contains a variety of soils well adapted for experimental purposes. Until the ground is ready the nursery at Bukit Bruang has to be kept up, but the latter is inconveniently far from the town for the purposes of supervision.

52. Mauritius hemp has grown well, and a Chinese gentleman, Mr. Tan Hun Guan, has taken several thousand plants for the purpose of experimenting in its manufacture.

53. I hope to see as much planting as possible in our reserves of the various guttas, which it is to be hoped will prove valuable both to Government and the Colony generally. From the wasteful way of collecting, the natural supply of plants has dwindled away, and it is now difficult to get any.

54. A new introduction, the "*Cedrela Odorata*," a good wood for light work, has grown well. The tree is an inhabitant of the Caribbean Islands, and its wood is used largely for cigar boxes.

55. Teak and mahogany have not succeeded at Bukit Bruang, but the latter is very hardy and likely to do better in moister soils.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT.

*Shipping Returns.*STRAITS
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Arrivals.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Steam vessels - -	687	769	857	870	960
Tonnage - -	185,298	201,935	181,074	155,268	189,583
Sailing vessels and native craft - -	823	961	1,143	1,440	2,052
Tonnage - -	21,898	22,291	29,907	33,633	38,051

Departures.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Steam vessels - -	687	766	860	871	961
Tonnage - -	185,298	201,570	181,439	155,380	189,883
Sailing vessels and native craft - -	965	1,022	1,148	1,450	2,089
Tonnage - -	24,439	24,212	29,735	33,982	38,377

Imports and Exports.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Imports - -	\$ 4,082,136	\$ 4,046,122	\$ 2,964,987	\$ 2,898,345	\$ 3,072,390
Exports - -	4,074,041	3,983,503	3,060,803	3,147,401	3,331,152

56. Both the imports and exports have revived during this year as the returns show. The chief increases in imports are horses, rice, padi, and opium. In exports there is an increase in rice, padi, tapioea, and specie.

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57. The shipping returns also show an increase in the number of vessels entered and cleared during the year, and in the number of boats registered.

58. Beacons have been placed at Pulau Panjang, Batu Mandi, and Kwâla Linggi. That at Batu Mandi was washed away in the equinoxial gales, which are frequently very severe on this coast, but will be replaced when the weather is favourable.

59. The expenditure in the department is unduly high as to launches, as it has had to bear the charges for the thorough repair of the steam launch "Albuquerque," which was taken away to Singapore in September for Royal Engineer service.

60. The department has to look after a coast of about 50 miles, to register boats and fishing stakes, and to attend to the light-houses at Pulau Undan and Cape Rachado.

POSTAL RETURNS.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Letters received -	55,274	64,918	74,555	80,834	88,980
Registered articles received - -	1,090	1,449	1,844	2,023	2,220
Letters despatched -	42,124	49,276	56,257	62,331	66,471
Registered articles despatched - -	760	1,172	2,186	2,465	2,446

Money Orders issued.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
United Kingdom -	\$ 1,293	\$ 760	\$ 532	\$ 649	\$ 986
Local - - -	1,302	1,528	1,621	1,356	1,810
Native States - -	10	46	400	378	182
India - - -	—	307	1,802	2,353	2,927
Ceylon - - -	—	274	273	401	744
China - - -	—	—	41	179	46
Local postal orders -	—	—	—	370	504
British postal orders -	—	—	—	220	470

Money Orders paid.

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—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
United Kingdom -	\$ 83	\$ 3	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 17
Local - - -	1,093	1,111	559	660	1,232
Native States - -	80	1,554	1,718	2,987	1,821
India - - -	—	—	—	88	367
Ceylon - - -	—	—	—	—	—
China - - -	—	—	18	—	—
Local postal orders -	—	—	—	229	208
British postal orders -	—	—	—	—	—

61. The postal department is under charge of the harbour master. An allowance of \$25 a month has been made this year for this addition to his duties. The business of the department shows a steady increase, as will be seen by the annexed table.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Supreme Court.—Criminal Cases.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Number of prisoners for trial -	81	26	19	39	47
<i>How disposed of.</i>					
Convicted - - - -	20	18	9	21	24
Acquitted - - - -	8	7	5	15	18
Nolle prosequi - - -	3	1	5	3	5

Civil Cases.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Number of cases heard	106	133	132	194	136
Damages involved -	\$ 33,308	\$ 52,483	\$ 84,507	\$ 58,553	\$ 59,988

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—

Bankruptcy Cases.

Nil.

Probate and Administration Cases.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Number of cases -	178	161	111	116	132
Value of property -	£ 138,305	£ 57,750	£ 36,125	£ 101,102	£ 79,179

Magistrate.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Number of prisoners brought before magistrate -	2,400	2,862	2,114	1,980	2,149
Number of cases -	1,561	1,941	1,465	1,312	1,450
<i>How dealt with (No. of Prisoners).</i>					
Committed to Supreme Court -	29	39	19	39	47
Convicted, imprisoned, or fined -	1,041	1,361	1,110	994	1,133
Ordered to give security -	100	96	51	39	47
Discharged -	1,154	1,315	911	884	902
Cases undecided -	76	51	23	24	20

62. Judging from the number of cases brought before the magistrate, crime in the Settlement is not great. A reference to the prison returns will show the nature of the terms of imprisonment inflicted, but as the changes of magistrates have been frequent a comparison of sentences for different years gives little information.

PRISONS.

Criminal.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
<i>Prisoners committed to Criminal Prison.</i>					
For 1 month or under -	47	98	86	57	101
„ 2 months „ -	32	28	31	31	34
„ 3 „ „ -	18	29	19	25	19

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	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
For 6 months or under - -	26	37	24	25	15
„ 1 year „ - -	5	4	1	3	5
„ 2 years „ - -	7	5	2	5	5
„ 3 „ „ - -	2	1	2	6	2
„ 4 „ „ - -	1	3	1	3	2
„ 10 „ „ - -	3	8	1	—	6
„ Life - - - -	—	1	—	1	—
Total - - -	141	214	167	156	189

63. One hundred and eighty-nine (189) prisoners were committed during the year; of these 133 were Chinese, 43 Malay, and 13 Indian. Computing by the last census taken, the percentages of criminals to population are as follows :—Chinese 1 in 148, Malay 1 in 1,570, Indian 1 in 149.

64. The long-sentenced prisoners are transferred to Singapore; of these there were 16. The daily average of prisoners was 22·08, and the daily average in hospital 1·44.

65. The Superintendent maintains his good reputation for careful and efficient supervision. No escapes occurred, and there were no offences of any importance.

66. The prisoners earned by stone-breaking, &c. during the year \$530.

Civil.

	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
<i>Received in Civil Prison.</i>					
For safe custody - - -	163	159	105	134	137
For trial - - - -	26	30	14	28	30
Simple imprisonment - -	20	2	16	33	30
Debtors - - - -	7	—	4	1	—
Lunatics admitted to the hospital -	14	22	17	23	6
Total - - -	230	213	156	219	203

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67. A comparative statement is given of committals. Nothing of importance occurred. No escapes nor deaths took place.

68. The gaol hospital is used for examination and treatment of lunatics; it is found to be less objectionable to send such cases there than to the hospital.

POLICE.

Strength of the Police Force.

	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Superintendent - - -	1	1	1	1	1
Inspectors - - -	3	3	3	3	3
Sergeant-Majors (Malay and Kling)	2	2	2	2	2
Sergeants „	4	4	4	4	4
Corporals - - -	33	39	30	30	31
Constables - - -	260	240	240	240	245
<i>Sikh Contingent.</i>					
Sergeants - - -	—	1	1	1	1
Corporals - - -	—	2	2	2	2
Constables - - -	—	22	22	22	29
		From 1st April.			
Total strength -	303	304	305	305	318

69. The superintendent (Mr. H. O. Newland) reports well of the town portion of the force and of the officers under him, but he complains of the material of which the force is principally composed, and of a want of intelligence and education generally in the recruits. These are mostly men from the interior, of whom less than 15 per cent. are able to read or write.

70. An attempt to remedy this state of things has been started, which I think likely to prove of a decided benefit. Two of the most promising of the constables in each country station have been made to attend school as part of their regular duty, and those who show aptitude and industry are to have their names placed on a list for promotion.

71. Attention has been paid to the improvement of the police compounds, which show a marked advance in neatness of up-keep. I hope later to be able to supply each of them with fruit trees from the forest nurseries.

72. The conduct and discipline generally of the force is reported as good, and improvement in this respect is noted in the Sikh contingent. The men were formerly allowed too much latitude, and were engaged in outside occupations as money-lenders and owners of bullock-carts, but this has been put a stop to.

73. Recruiting is at a disadvantage from the fact that better pay can be obtained by any intelligent man outside of the service, and the pay of office peons, &c. is fixed at a higher proportional rate.

74. The heavy material used for clothing causes it to be disliked, but this is a matter which probably might easily be rectified.

75. A police post has been established throughout the Settlement, letters being forwarded at fixed hours from station to station. The requirements of the collector for the Native States led to my directing this, and it has been extended to the frontier stations in other directions.

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Crimes.

76. Three cases of murder were reported, but unfortunately in none were the perpetrators discovered.

77. One case, that of a Malay at Alor Gajah who was shot at night while asleep in a verandah, is accounted for by strong ill-feeling against him in the neighbourhood.

78. The second is that of a Chinese vegetable-planter at Serkham, who probably was murdered for the small property in his possession.

79. The third case is that of an infant found drowned at the sea-beach wrapped up in clothing.

80. One case of culpable homicide, one of gang robbery, and one of housebreaking were discovered and punished. A complaint of gang robbery at Sungei Bharu was made, but there is reason to suspect that it was false and made to cover the disappearance of property entrusted to the complainant. The case has never been cleared up; the detective powers of the police are not strong.

Coroner's Inquests.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Accidental death - - -	28	29	15	30	17
Drinking, excessive - - -	—	—	—	—	2
Drowned, found - - -	3	—	—	6	1
Felo de se - - -	6	2	1	7	2
Homicide - - -	2	1	—	1	1
Inanition - - -	—	—	—	1	—
Murder - - -	2	2	2	5	3
Natural causes - - -	16	10	23	16	4
Open verdicts - - -	1	12	6	1	—
Shot, found - - -	—	—	—	1	—
Suicide while insane - - -	—	—	—	—	1
Total - - -	58	56	47	68	31

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Secret Societies.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
<i>Chinese :</i>					
Ghee Hin - - -	3,281	4,524	4,786	3,652	4,438
Do., Macao - - -	404	454	454	274	346
Ghee Bu - - -	592	640	646	Suppressed.	
Hok Beng - - -	2,403	2,751	2,836	Ditto.	
Hei San - - -	504	559	583	336	402
Total - - -	7,184	8,928	9,305	4,262	5,186

81. Nothing of any importance occurred with regard to these societies. The superintendent reports as to the flag societies amongst the Malays that "they seem to have died out," but I have reason to believe that he is over-sanguine in this view, as, although they work in a less open manner than formerly, they still exist and have recognised headmen. The movement is in fact reviving and requires to be dealt with.

Hackney Carriages.

82. The condition of these can hardly be called satisfactory, the demand for them is not great, and both carriages and the ponies employed are bad. The charges demanded are generally unreasonable. The powers for regulating hackney carriages and fares should, I think, be extended to country districts as well as town.

Contagious Diseases Ordinance.

83. Return of women registered under the Ordinance :—

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Chinese - - -	73	95	83	82	116
Malay - - -	1	—	—	—	—
Indian - - -	—	1	—	—	—
Japanese - - -	—	—	—	—	6
Total - - -	74	96	83	82	122

84. The buildings formerly used as brothels, which were in a deplorable condition, have been vacated, and a new range of buildings with proper sanitary arrangements built and occupied.

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EDUCATION.

	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
<i>Boys.</i>					
High School - - -	276	275	303	308	304
French Mission School, St. Francis -	135	101	130	164	174
Portuguese Mission, Tranquerah -	32	33	31	33	41
Banda Hilir - - -	31	32	—	—	—
Vernacular - - -	796	1,487	1,706	2,097	2,045
<i>Girls.</i>					
The Convent - - -	70	95	94	101	103
Tranquerah - - -	31	32	32	39	52
Malacca Girls' School - - -	19	16	18	16	17
Vernacular - - -	—	—	—	39	112
Total - - -	1,390	2,021	2,314	2,797	2,848

85. The total average enrolment has again increased for the year, although there is a slight falling off in the High School and the vernacular schools for boys.

86. The vernacular schools for girls are showing a very appreciable increase.

87. I have no doubt that education will steadily increase, and that its advantage will be more and more appreciated as its effects are seen. Personally I am more for pushing this by gentle means and persuasion than by compulsion. I should like to see more frequent visits of inspection if it could be managed by the Inspector of Schools.

MEDICAL.

Hospital.

	General.	Lock.	Pauper.	Govt.	Leper.	Small-pox.	Total.
Remaining from 1885	9	2	119	2	5	—	137
Admissions, 1886 - - -	225	69	795	20	5	1	1,115
Total - - -	234	71	914	22	10	1	1,252
Discharged - - -	221	71	677	19	1	1	990
Absconded - - -	—	—	3	—	1	—	4
Transferred - - -	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Died - - -	6	—	109	—	—	—	115
Total - - -	227	71	789	19	6	1	1,113
Remaining under treatment -	7	—	125	3	4	—	139
Total - - -	234	71	914	22	10	1	1,252
Per-centage of deaths to admissions - - -	2.13	—	11.74	—	—	—	—

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Statement showing Total Number of Cases treated in all the Hospitals.

—				1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Admissions	-	-	-	1,539	1,083	1,179	1,254	1,115
Discharged	-	-	-	1,218	921	924	1,040	986
Absconded	-	-	-	31	22	11	10	4
Transferred	-	-	-	—	7	—	3	4
Died	-	-	-	291	163	238	171	115
Per-centage of deaths to admissions - - -				18·90	15·05	20·18	13·63	10·31

(The difference in number is accounted for by the cases remaining at the end of each year.)

88. The Settlement has been remarkably healthy during the year. No epidemics have occurred, and only one case of small-pox was treated in the hospital. The per-centage of death-rates was also lower than in the previous year, being in the General Hospital 2·12 as against 2·15, and 11·96 as against 16·12 in the Pauper Hospital.

89. I have visited the hospitals frequently and unexpectedly, and am glad to be able to record my satisfaction as to their general neatness, cleanliness, and order.

90. The subscriptions towards the Pauper and Leper Hospitals amounted to \$228. For some time such subscriptions have been less than they should be, but this year it has been agreed that cultivators, in consideration of the benefit they derive from the hospitals to those in their employ, have agreed to subscribe a fixed contribution of \$1 for each 100 acres held by them.

Births and Deaths.

—				1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Births	-	-	-	1,896	2,142	2,718	2,715	3,205
Deaths	-	-	-	3,930	2,652	2,784	2,465	2,468

91. The return of births is considerably greater than the previous year, while the return of deaths is smaller in proportion.

Vaccination.

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—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Cases - - -	1,400	1,750	2,801	3,083	2,606
Per-centage successful	72·50	70	87·50	80	80·58

92. The returns for the year have fallen off; the work was interrupted and rather thrown out of order by the illness and death of one vaccinator; the per-centage of successful cases is, however, slightly better than last year.

Out-door Dispensary.

—	1885.	1886.
Cases treated - - -	1,076	1,425

93. The Out-door Dispensary having only been opened in February 1885, there is not room for comparison, but it is reported to have done good work. The number of cases attended was 1,425 as against 1,076 in 1885. The receipts were \$201.60, being less than last year, but the institution is intended as a help to the poorer people. The Colonial Surgeon, however, complains that it takes his chief apothecary too much away from the hospitals.

METEOROLOGICAL.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
<i>Rainfall.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Average for the year - -	66·19	91·15	73·04	67·71	71·95
Highest in any district - -	—	—	84·11	77·74	90·76
Lowest in any district - -	—	—	58·87	39·16	50·96
Greatest fall in 24 hours - -	2·85	4·32	6·11	4·29	4·80
	One station of observation only.				

94. The rainfall for the entire year has been registered at 10 stations. Nine others were established during the year, from which, of course, partial returns only could be obtained.

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95. The rainfall for the year has again been lower than it should be. As the Principal Civil Medical Officer furnishes complete returns for the Colony it is useless to repeat them here.

SAVINGS BANK.

Statement of the Work of the Bank.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Number of accounts opened -	Established 1883.	11	9	10	19
Amount deposited - -		\$ 1,050	\$ 1,533	\$ 1,864	\$ 2,945
Amount withdrawn - -		203	765	1,666	1,598
Amount to the credit of depositors, including interest, at the end of the year - - -		868	1,680	1,981	3,475

96. The bank has been more patronised this year than in any preceding one, and I hope that its advantages are at last beginning to be understood.

LIBRARY.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Receipts - -	\$874	\$1,023	\$994	\$1,246	\$960
Expenditure - -	\$831	\$892	\$996	\$1,408	\$965
Number of subscribers	27	40	41	40	39
Do. visitors -	No Record.			2,500	3,000

97. The receipts in the year were as follows:—

	\$	c.
Government contribution - - -	500	00
Subscriptions received - - -	459	90
Balance from 1885 - - -	-	34
	<u>960</u>	<u>24</u>

The expenditure:—

	\$	c.
Salaries, &c. - - -	388	50
Purchase of books and papers - - -	532	40
Contingencies - - -	44	57
	<u>965</u>	<u>47</u>

Being an excess over receipts of 5 23

but this was covered by subscriptions due remaining unpaid on 31st December.

98. It is hoped that Government may be induced to increase the grant-in-aid, as it is smaller in proportion than that given either to Singapore or Penang.

The Committee desire if possible to add standard works to the library, but require further help to do so.

99. The community being so small the subscriptions were fixed at one dollar a month, but in order to extend the benefit of the library to those who may find this charge too high, it has been resolved to allow a subscription of 50 cents monthly, with fewer advantages as to periodicals.

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MALACCA.

MUNICIPAL.

Revenue.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Assessment, houses -	\$ 11,485 c. 42	\$ 11,484 c. 97	\$ 9,103 c. 93	\$ 12,079 c. 51	\$ 10,754 c. 70
Assessment, lands -	1,427 47	1,556 06	1,388 35	1,008 57	1,413 72
Taxes, private carriages -	1,194 96	1,231 62	1,247 19	1,184 92	1,187 64
Taxes, hackney carriages -	1,602 29	1,784 89	1,628 58	1,439 02	1,782 20
Taxes, carts -	7,404 23	8,700 52	7,863 96	8,821 60	8,309 65
Licenses, trades -	1,366 50	1,484 00	1,378 50	1,928 00	1,910 00
Miscellaneous -	963 97	886 41	1,622 45	627 17	2,040 64
Total revenue -	25,444 83	27,188 47	24,232 96	27,083 79	27,398 5

Expenditure.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Salaries -	\$ 3,090 c. 99	\$ 4,190 c. 00	\$ 4,305 c. 76	\$ 4,354 c. 62	\$ 4,730 c. 40
Allowances -	1,663 61	2,147 13	1,950 53	2,061 54	2,377 79
Contribution for police	3,600 00	3,600 00	3,000 00	3,600 00	3,600 00
Contingencies -	1,185 71	1,328 17	865 59	973 39	836 47
Lighting -	2,789 87	1,290 72	1,823 93	3,929 32	4,273 16
Roads, streets, and bridges -	15,246 60	13,399 25	11,960 66	10,643 63	10,794 03
Works and buildings -	90 75	84 51	143 46	44 71	158 83
Special expenditure -	2,439 78	425 45	1,822 19	1,643 31	67 88
Interest on loan -	—	—	—	—	2,187 50
Total expenditure	30,107 31	26,465 23	26,481 12	27,150 51	29,026 06

100. As will be seen by the statements, the revenue of the municipality just suffices for the ordinary expenditure for cleansing and lighting the town, but leaves very little margin for any work

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.
—
MALACCA.
—

of importance. Up to the present time assessment has only been enforced within a limit of four miles from the town, but steps are being taken to levy it beyond this.

101. In 1884 and 1885 the Commissioners obtained a loan of \$25,000 from Government for the purpose of improving the drainage of the town; much, however, remains to be done, and the completion of this important work is dependent on further loans.

102. The principal streets are fairly well lighted, and additional lamps have been set up. Alterations in widening and improving corners of streets are regularly made as opportunity and means permit.

103. The roads within a radius of two miles of town are kept up by the municipality, but I should be glad to see improvement in this respect. The roads are far from being as well kept as might be desired.

104. An illuminated clock has been presented to the town and set up by Mr. Tan Jak Kim, to replace a former one, given by his father, which was worn out.

Native States.

105. The native states have been separately reported upon this year. I need only say that their development, of which there are most hopeful signs, is as much to be desired for the sake of Malacca as for their own interest, opening as it will a fresh field for trade and enterprise.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. E. ISEMONGER,
Acting Resident Councillor.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.
—

PENANG.
—

No. 13.

Administrator J. F. DICKSON to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Singapore,

May 25, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the Administration Report, Penang, for the year 1886.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. F. DICKSON,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.

Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., M.P., G.C.M.G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT, PENANG, 1886.

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

COLONIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

PENANG.

Revenue, Expenditure, Surplus.

1. The Colonial revenue received in Penang during 1886 amounted to \$1,216,688. The expenditure for the year, including \$62,064 for Penang charges defrayed by the Crown Agents in London, amounted to \$977,529. There was an apparent surplus therefore in the year's transactions of \$239,159.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1885 and 1886.

2. A comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for 1885 and 1886 is given in the Appendix A.

Land Revenue.

3. The land revenue receipts for 1885 and 1886 are shown in the following table:—

	1885.	1886.
Premium on leases - - -	\$ 970	\$ 4,479
Rents - - - -	22,244	26,670
Miscellaneous - - -	12,405	15,067
Total - - -	35,619	46,216

Further reference to this branch of the revenue will be found below under the head "Crown Lands."

Revenue and Expenditure, 1885 and 1886.

4. The total revenue and the total expenditure for 1886, as compared with the revenue and expenditure for 1885, are shown in the following statement:—

	1885.	1886.		1885.	1886.
Ordinary revenue	\$ 1,013,006	\$ 1,034,921	Ordinary ex- penditure.	\$ 851,955	\$ 899,686
Beach Street re- imbursements	186,282	181,767	Beach Street Works.	132,016	77,843
Total -	1,199,288	1,216,688	Total -	983,971	977,529

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.
—
PENANG.
—

Farms or Licenses.

5. The following statement shows the rents obtained from the principal "Farms" (classed as "Licenses" in the accounts) at the last three triennial lettings:—

—	1880-82.	1883-85.	1886-88.
	\$	\$	\$
Opium - - -	440,640	480,000	582,000
Spirits - - -	178,500	216,000	240,000
Pawnbrokers - - -	88,112	42,000	54,000
Total - - -	657,252	738,000	876,000

Stamps.

6. The following statement gives particulars of the stamp revenue for the past three years:—

—	1884.	1885.	1886.
	\$	\$	\$
Fees of office :—			
Adhesive - - -	6,998	7,372	12,759
Impressed - - -	—	—	2,825
Revenue :—			
Adhesive - - -	19,339	19,504	13,888
Impressed - - -	35,220	48,744	46,726
Judicial :—			
Adhesive - - -	18,968	21,692	24,292
Probate :—			
Adhesive - - -	8,291	5,801	15,998
Impressed - - -	—	2,135	8,211
Total - - -	88,811	99,748	124,699

7. A suggested improvement in the system of checking the receipts of revenue from impressed stamps (by requiring that such stamps should be impressed *over* adhesive stamps of the same value, the issue of which latter being of course easily checkable by "stock-books") is now under consideration.

8. As stated in my Report for 1885, I consider the "adhesive stamp" system, *pur et simple*, to be an unsafe way of collecting revenue; and I would suggest the advisability of still further reducing the scope of the system—(1) by transferring some of the items on which revenue is still so paid to the "impressed stamp" category; and (2) by requiring the fees in respect of other items to be paid in cash, and thus bringing them under the ordinary audit office checks.

Public Works.

9. The only items of expenditure that call for particular remark are "works and buildings" and "roads, streets, and bridges" and (it is convenient to state this separately from ordinary "works") the Beach Street reclamation.

*Beach Street Reclamation.*STRAITS
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10. The reclamation of the foreshore in front of Beach Street, George Town, was begun in October, 1883, and (with the exception of the piers to be constructed opposite the ends of the ghauts running down to the quay from Beach Street) the work was completed in December, 1886. The length of the quay wall is 5,104 feet; the average width of the land reclaimed is about 250 feet; and the area of the reclaimed land is about 25 acres.

11. The estimated cost of the work was \$520,000/. The actual expenditure to the end of 1886 was nearly \$420,000. The estimated cost of the piers above referred to, now in course of construction, is about \$40,000.

12. The calculated amount of the reimbursements on account of the work by the Beach Street proprietors was \$430,854. The amount received on this account up to the close of 1886 (exclusive of \$4,725 for interest on arrears) was \$363,324.

13. The project of an intermediate road, running parallel to the quay and half-way between the line of the quay and the line of Beach Street (referred to in my report for 1885), remains at present in abeyance, in consequence of the want of accord among the holders of the properties which the road would traverse.

Works and Buildings.

14. Exclusive of the "reclamation," the expenditure for works and buildings in 1886 amounted to \$166,385, against \$195,494 in 1885. The following statement gives particulars of the principal works :—

	Total estimated cost.	Paid prior to 1886.	Paid in 1886.
	\$	\$	\$
Quarters for Resident Surgeon, General Hospital - - -	7,550	—	7,548
Quarters for Assistant Superintendent of Police at Butterworth - -	3,600	—	3,600
Police Barracks at Butterworth - -	18,580	6,000	7,530
Police Barracks at Brick-kiln Road - -	10,150	5,000	5,150
Improvements to Prangin ditch - -	25,100	24,152	980
Powder magazine, Pulau Jeréjak - -	5,000	1,810	3,120
Vernacular schools - - -	6,000	—	6,000
Iron jetty, George Town - - -	29,987	1,046	16
Nibong Tēbal water supply - - -	26,186	1,186	24,999
Prevention of River Muda floods - -	21,790	11,790	10,000
New Government offices - - -	280,000	10,152	17,817

Nibong Tēbal Waterworks.

15. The Nibong Tēbal Waterworks, Province Wellesley, have recently been completed at a total cost of about \$27,000. As stated in the last year's report, the supply is taken from a stream

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near Bukit Panchor. The reservoir is about 55 feet above the sea level, and the supply is brought to the village by a seven-inch main of about 24,000 feet in length. It is believed that the water will be sufficient not merely for the wants of the village of Nibong Tēbal, but will be available for the supply, by means of water-boats, of the village of Tēluk Epil, in Trans-Krian, and other places on the river.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

16. The expenditure for "roads, streets, and bridges" in 1886 amounted to \$100,164, against \$123,944 in 1885. The following are the principal works :—

	Total estimated cost.	Paid prior to 1886.	Paid in 1886.
	\$	\$	\$
Re-metalling road from Kwala Prai to Batu Tengah - - -	16,100	7,998	8,095
Metalling road from Sungei Bakap Hospital to Nibong Tēbal - -	20,550	—	10,550
Improvements to road near Byan Lepas	3,100	—	3,099
Replacing five decayed timber bridges by iron girder bridges - -	5,200	—	5,199
Constructing 2nd class road in Trans-Krian - - -	22,000	4,999	9,999
Constructing new road from Noir Sebatang <i>via</i> Padang Manorah to Kubang Semang - - -	5,000	—	5,000
Metalling road from Bagan Ajam to Sungei Puyu - - -	4,300	—	4,300
Construction of hill road to Balik Pulau by Ghinting Pass - -	81,500	62,009	10,490
Constructing a raised path at Arra Kuda	800	—	800
Drainage improvements at Balik Pulau	3,107	—	3,102

THE MUNICIPALITY.

Sources of Revenue. Scope of Duties.

17. The position of the Municipality, in regard to the sources of its revenue and the scope of its duties, remains as stated in paragraphs 21 and 22 of my Report for 1885 ; but a Bill is now under consideration by which the Municipality will be restricted, in both respects, to the town and suburbs of George Town, with possibly the adjacent country districts (within a five-mile radius)

lying between the hills and the sea, from Tanjong Tokong to Sungei Glugor. This course was suggested in my report, as Acting Lieutenant-Governor, for 1879, and I am still quite of opinion that it is the advisable course. The present arrangement under which the Municipality levy assessment over the whole Settlement while the Government undertakes the Province roads and such important works (properly chargeable to the rates) as the new road to Balik Pulau, the waterworks at Balik Pulau and Nibong Tēbal; and the improvement of the Prangin Canal, is altogether anomalous. While as regards the conservancy of the country villages, the Commissioners (except so far as they are Government officers) are not in a position to acquire that local knowledge which they are especially relied on to contribute.

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Accounts.

18. The following is an abstract of the accounts of the Municipality for 1886. A more detailed statement is given in the Appendix B.

Ordinary revenue - - -	199,581	Ordinary expenditure - - -	169,725
		Town drainage - - -	18,027
		New market - - -	3,554
		New Prangin bath-house - - -	2,386
		Total - - -	193,642
Advances recovered - - -	20,866	Government loan repaid - - -	10,000
Balance, 1st January 1886 - - -	30,932	Private loan repaid - - -	10,000
		Advances - - -	20,300
		Special deposit with Bank - - -	1,094
		Balance, 31st december 1886 - - -	16,443
Total - - -	251,379	Total - - -	251,379

Outstanding Loans.

19. The balance that remained due to Government on the 31st December 1886 in respect of loans was \$187,500, bearing interest at 5 per cent. The balance at that date in respect of private loans at 6 per cent., was \$20,000. Of the latter, loans to the amount of \$14,000 have since been paid off, and the remainder will be paid off in the course of this year.

TOWN AND SUBURBAN DRAINAGE.

Padam Garam District.

20. The Carnavon Street sewer, with the Chulia Street branches, has been completed at a cost of \$27,118, and the system of side channels in connexion with the sewers has been partly carried out at a cost of \$3,173. The completion of this portion of the work (at an estimated cost of \$20,000) is postponed to 1888 for want of funds.

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Beach Street District.

21. Open drains (but covered over with granite slabs with one-inch intervals) are now being constructed down the seven "ghauts" running from Beach Street to the sea, across the newly reclaimed land, at an estimated cost of about \$19,000. The expenditure in levelling and metalling the ghauts is estimated at about \$4,000.

Remaining Town Districts.

22. The drainage of the remaining districts of the "Town" area, which, as stated in my Report for 1885, is considered as bounded by the line of the Prangin ditch and the transfer road may be estimated at about \$80,000; but this portion of the work is postponed to 1888 for want of funds.

Suburban Districts.

23. Improvements are required to the main suburban outlet drains as follows:—

			\$
Pérak, Pangkor Road	-	-	2,700
Seang Tek Road	-	-	940
McAlister Road	-	-	1,010
Burma Road	-	-	1,200
Total	-	-	<u>5,850</u>

These works also stand postponed to 1888 for want of funds.

Tramways.

24. In 1885 an Ordinance, No. IX., was passed to provide for the construction, maintenance, and working of tramways in Prince of Wales' Island. The lines at present constructed, in course of construction, or contemplated are:—

	Miles.
(1.) From the jetty along Weld Quay to the junction near the Prison (contemplated and opened for traffic on the 2nd February 1887)	2.75
(2.) From the junction to the foot of Government Hill (will probably be opened for traffic in the course of a month)	2.20
(3.) From the junction to the village of Ayer Hitam (date of completion uncertain)	2.70

25. Trains were allowed to be run on the second section during the days (in February) of the Hindoo Festival "Tai-Pusum." During that month the number of passengers, so far as it could be ascertained, was, I am informed, over 49,000. The passengers in March are stated to have amounted to over 57,000, and during the first half of April to over 24,000.

26. The inhabitants of the districts traversed and approached by the Burma Road have recently applied to the promoters for a line to be laid along that thoroughfare.

POPULATION, PUBLIC HEALTH.

Births and Deaths.

27. The births and deaths in 1885 and 1886 were as follows :—

	Births.		Deaths.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
Chinese - - - -	602	682	2,821	2,934
Malays - - - -	2,715	3,084	2,065	2,507
Tamils - - - -	424	465	875	930
Other nationalities - - -	104	127	120	121
Total - - -	3,845	4,358	5,881	6,492

Deaths and Death-Rates.

28. The following table shows the numbers of deaths and the death-rates, in 1884, 1885, and 1886. The rates have been calculated on the figures of the census 1881 :—

	Population. Census of 1881.	Deaths.			Death-rates.		
		1884.	1885.	1886.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Penang, George Town	44,267	2,227	1,626	2,381	50.3	36.7	53.7
Penang Country -	46,634	1,394	2,094	1,414	27.7	44.8	30.2
Province Wellesley -	97,294	2,276	2,161	2,697	23.3	22.3	27.8
Total - - -	188,245	5,797	5,881	6,492	30.7	36.5	34.4

29. The wide difference between the death-rates for 1885, in respect of George Town and the country districts of the Island, and the similar rates for 1884 and 1886 is probably due to some error in the classification for 1885.

Hospitals.

30. The reports of the public hospitals for the years 1885 and 1886 give the following results :—

	1885.			1886.		
	Cases treated.	Deaths.	Rate per Mille.	Cases treated.	Deaths.	Rate per Mille.
General Hospital :—						
Europeans - - -	155	3	19	159	6	37
Natives - - -	829	27	32	895	30	33
Prison Hospital - - -	87	5	57	89	12	134
Lock Hospital - - -	1,005	—	—	1,061	1	1
Pauper Hospital - - -	2,289	419	183	2,172	315	145
District Hospitals :—						
Balik Pulau - - -	478	57	120	414	33	79
Province Wellesley - -	1,351	78	58	1,790	82	45
Leper Hospital, Pulau Jeritjak -	203	35	418	197	75	330

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31. The deaths from beri-beri at the pauper hospital during the last six years (there were none in the three preceding years) have been as follows :—

1881	-	-	6	1884	-	-	54
1882	-	-	44	1885	-	-	172
1883	-	-	78	1886	-	-	100

32. In 1879-80, when I was acting here as Lieutenant-Governor, and again in January 1884, when I was acting as Colonial Secretary, I brought to the notice of the Government facts in regard to the mortality in the prisons which seemed to point some connexion, in the nature of cause and effect, between *deficient nutrition* and the disease *beri-beri*; and I am still disposed to believe that imperfect nutrition, arising from a dietary deficient in albuminates and potash salts, may be the primary cause of the disease. But the disease once set on foot and intensified, I am by no means prepared to say that it may not be communicable (by infection or contagion or by contamination of food or water) even to thoroughly well-nourished persons.* That it is so communicable in the case of persons predisposed to the disease by the use of such defective dietaries I am myself inclined to believe. The Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Hampshire, is strongly of this opinion, and points to the fact that when, in April 1880, a number of prisoners (186) suffering from beri-beri were sent to Penang from Singapore the disease "ran through the gaol like measles."

33. The question of a revision of the dietary given to the natives in the Pauper and District Hospitals is now under consideration. The following is an analysis of the present scale, which may be compared with the prison scales. See paragraph 100.

	Albu- minates.	Fats.	Carbo- Hydrates.	Salts.
	Grains.	Grains.	Grains.	Grains.
Rice† - - - 28 ounces	612	96	10,192	61
Fresh fish‡ - - 3 "	239	38	—	13
Fresh meat (fat pork)‡ 3 "	129	642	—	30
Vegetables§ - - 6 "	5	13	152	18
Dholl - - - 2 1/2 "	72	6	174	8
Cocoanut oil¶ - - 1/2 "	—	218	—	—
Salt** - - - 1/2 "	—	—	—	—
Curry stuff†† - 1 "	—	—	—	—
Total - - -	1,057	1,015	10,518	130

* I have, however, heard no case of the medical officers or hospital attendants contracting the disease.

† Six ounces of the rice are given in the form of "Congee." The remaining 22 ounces will weigh about 44 ounces when boiled.

‡ Once a week four ounces of salt fish are given instead of the fresh fish and fresh meat. The fresh meat for Chinese, who form the bulk of the patients, consists of fat pork.

§ The constituents of the "vegetables" are taken from an analysis of "cabbage" and the values are probably too high.

|| The constituents of "dholl" are taken from an analysis of "peas."

¶ I assume the "oil" to consist entirely of "fats."

** The common salt is no equivalent from the natural (potash) salts of the foods.

†† The curry stuff can hardly be said to have nutritive value.

34. The following entry in the visitors' book of the Pauper Hospital by an officer holding high rank in the Indian Military Medical Service may be quoted as illustrative of the satisfactory conditions into which the hospitals of the Settlement have been brought :—

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"Greatly interested in all that I have seen, and consider the arrangements excellent, and far in advance of those in native hospitals in India."

The large superficial space per bed (from 70 to 100 square feet) for which Dr. Hampshire has always contended is a noticeable feature in our hospital arrangements, and I am surprised to see that in the printed papers of "Questions" to which the Medical Officers are required to give annual replies, there is no column for the "superficial space" available for each patient, but only for the "cubic space." If, as Dr. Hampshire has pointed out, the beds are crowded too close together, evil will result; no matter to what extent "cubic space" is afforded, vertically, by increasing the height of the wards.

35. Two additional wards, for 50 inmates each, are now being built, and the compound is being enlarged and surrounded by "unclimbable" iron fencing. One of the new wards will be a "prison ward" (for diseased and decrepit prisoners committed for trifling offences) and will be isolated within the compound by similar fencing.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

Immigration, 1885 and 1886.

36. The total number of Indian immigrants who arrived in 1886 (including those whose ultimate destination was Singapore or the Native States) was 20,390, as against 21,510 in 1885.

The number of natives of India who returned to India in 1886 was 18,105, as against 13,417 in 1885.

Statute Immigrants.

37. The numbers of Indian immigrants who entered into "first contracts" in 1886 were as follows :—

—	For service in						Total.
	Penang.	Singapore.	Pérak.	Selangor.	Sungei Ujong.	Johor.	
Men - - -	1,506	—	} 405	63	144	141	2,758
Women - - -	340	—					
Total - - -	1,915	—	405	63	144	141	2,758

* The Penang "dependants" (children) were 216 in number.

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38. The numbers of statute immigrants who entered into "first contracts" for service in the Settlement in 1885 and 1886 were :—

	1885.	1886.
Men - - - -	795	1,566
Women - - - -	230	349
Children - - - -	33	216
Total - - - -	1,058	2,131

39. The following figures give the statistics of the statute immigrants employed in the Settlement (exclusive of children) for the year 1886 :—

Remained from previous year	-	3,229
Immigrants, first contracts -	-	1,915
Immigrants, renewed contracts	-	186
		— 5,330
Discharged - - - -	-	1,025
Absconded - - - -	-	374
Died - - - -	-	93
		— 1,492
Remained at close of year -	-	- 3,838

Of those so remaining on the books of the estates on the 31st December 1886 there were :—

At work - - - -	-	3,390
In estate hospitals	-	257
In Government hospitals	-	138
In gaol - - - -	-	53
		— 3,838

40. The following statement gives particulars of the deaths, desertions, and convictions in respect of the several estates :—

	Average No.*	Numbers of			Rate per 1,000.			STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
		Deaths.	†Deser-tions.	‡Convic-tions.	Deaths.	†Deser-tions.	‡Convic-tions.	PENANG.
Alma - - -	165	5	36	31	30·3	215·1	187·8	
Byram - - -	427	12	73	49	28·1	170·9	114·7	
Batu Kawan - - -	835	22	64	450	26·3	76·6	538·9	
Caledonia - - -	691	30	146	240	43·4	211·2	347·8	
Golden Grove - - -	226	5	61	44	22·1	269·9	194·6	
Malakoff - - -	254	2	50	134	7·8	196·8	527·5	
Prye - - -	604	13	129	350	18·7	185·8	504·3	
Trans-Krian - - -	229	4	59	30	17·4	257·6	131·0	
Total - - -	3,531	93	618	1,328	26·4	175·5	377·1	

* These numbers have been arrived at by adding the initial and final numbers and dividing by two. This will, of course, only give a rough approximation to the "daily average."

† Of the 618 deserters, 244 were apprehended and sent back to the estates.

‡ The "convictions" include convictions for desertion.

41. The revenue of the Immigration Department for the year, derived from the stamp fee of one dollar on the coolies' contracts,* appears to have amounted to \$2,617. The expenditure of the Department as borne in the estimates for 1887 amounts to \$21,344; and to this must be added \$30,000 a year for the subsidy to be granted to the line of steamers running between Negapatam and the Straits. The time of the Magistrate at Province Wellesley is occupied to the extent of nearly an hour a day on the average in trying cases arising out of these contracts (though it is seldom that any defence is made); and in 1886, out of 2,925 persons committed to the Criminal Prison, no fewer than 837 were Tamil coolies convicted of "desertion," "neglect to labour," and other similar offences under the Ordinance. Altogether the business is a costly one to the Government; and in this respect it contrasts unfavourably with the business relating to the Chinese Immigration. (*See below, paragraphs 42 to 46.*)

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

Immigration, 1885 and 1886.

42. The total number of Chinese immigrants in 1886 was 57,186, against 42,142 in 1885. Of the arrivals in 1886, 4,157 went on direct to other places, and the number that landed in the Settlement was 53,029, of whom 1,360 were women.

* The Fee on the Johor contracts is, I understand, paid over to the Johor Government.

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Unpaid Passages.

43. The number of those so landed whose passage money had not been paid, and who therefore came under the special provisions of the Chinese Immigrants Ordinance of 1880, was 23,459, against 17,034 in 1885.

Contracts to Labour.

44. Contracts to labour were entered into before officers of the Chinese Protectorate to the number of 24,746 in 1886, against 19,749 in 1885. The contracts were for service as follows :—

		1885.	1886.
Within the Settlement	- -	5,404	6,221
In the Native States	- -	2,241	5,407
In Dutch colonies	- -	11,727	12,719
In other places	- -	377	399
Total	- -	19,749	24,746

45. The number of Chinese coolies committed to prison for desertion and other breaches of contract during the year was only 49.

46. The question of the advisability of introducing, in regard to Chinese indentured coolies, such a system of inspection of the estates on which they are employed as exists at present in regard to Indian indentured coolies is now under the consideration of the Government.

Revenue and Expenditure.

47. From August, 1886, the stamp fee on contract to labour beyond the Colony and the Native States was (as suggested by the Assistant Protector) raised from 25 cents to one dollar, with a proportionate improvement to the revenue of the Department. Had the higher rate been in force during the whole year, the revenue of the Department would have amounted to over \$16,000.

48. The expenditure of the Department, as borne on the estimates for 1887, with the addition of the salary of a Second Assistant, amounts to \$14,491 per annum.

Chinese Societies.

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49. The following statement gives particulars of the Chinese Societies registered under the Ordinances XIX. of 1869 and V. of 1872;—

Name of Society.	Total Numbers registered 1877-1886.	Registered.		Actual Subscribers (approximate), 1886.	Nationalities.
		1885.	1886.		
Toapoh Kong, <i>alias</i> Kien Tek	15,545	1,631	1,360	2,000	Chiefly Hokkiens.
Ghee Hin - - -	46,247	5,509	6,974	4,000	Hokkiens, Techius, Cantonese, Khehs, Hallams.
Ho-Seng - - -	11,220	1,418	1,061	1,000	
Chhun Sim - - -	2,369	23	—	600	
Hai San - - -	674	2	30	400	Chiefly Khehs.
Ghee Hok (suppressed) -	—	343	—	—	Chiefly Techius.
Total - - -	75,045	8,950	9,354	8,000	

50. Disturbances between the Ghee Hins and the Ho Sengs took place in June, 1886, and again in January this year. They were promptly put down by the police; and 30 or 40 arrests were made on the former occasion and about 90 on the latter. The Kien Tek Kongsee, with the consent of the Assistant Protector of Chinese, acted as arbitrators in the quarrel, and in both cases they gave it as their decision that the Ho Sengs were in the wrong.

51. A Singapore Society, the "Li Seng Hang," made an attempt to start an unauthorised branch in Penang, and had already succeeded in enrolling about 200 members, mostly belonging to the Ghee Hin Society, before they were detected. Two of the headmen were fined \$200 for this offence, and some twenty of the members, who were arrested at the same time, were cautioned and discharged.

52. A "Friendly Society" called the "Ho Hup Sia" gave some trouble in the course of the year, especially at Bukit Mertajam; and it is under consideration whether the Society should not be required to be registered as a "Dangerous Society" with a view (should it give further trouble) to its being suppressed.

CROWN LANDS.

LAWS.

53. The following are the Laws relating to Crown lands that have been enacted since the question was taken up in 1883* :—

Crown Lands Ordinance, X. of 1883.

An Ordinance to prevent encroachment upon Crown Lands (October 1883).

* Exclusive of two Ordinances (VIII. and IX. of 1886) relating specially to Malacca.

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Boundaries Ordinance, VIII. of 1884.

An Ordinance to provide for the Demarcation of Land and for the establishment and maintenance of Boundary Marks (November, 1884).

Crown Lands Ordinance, II. of 1886.

An Ordinance to regulate the Alienation and Occupation of Crown Lands (January, 1886).

Land Revenue Collection Ordinance, IV. of 1886.

An Ordinance for making better provision for the Collection of the Land Revenue of the Crown (June, 1886).

Conveyancing Ordinance, VI. of 1886.

An Ordinance for simplifying and improving the Practice of Conveyancing, &c. (July, 1886).

Registration of Deeds Ordinance, XIII. of 1886.

An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Deeds and other instruments (August, 1886).

Rules.

54. Rules have been made by the Governor under Ordinance No. II. of 1886, and by the Governor in Council under Ordinances Nos. VIII. of 1884 and IV. and XIII. of 1886.

Procedure contemplated.

55. The procedure to facilitate which these laws and regulations have been framed, may be described as follows :—

I.—To ascertain particulars, in respect of the entire soil of the three Settlements, of lands coming under the following exhaustive classification :—

- (a.) Lands held under grants in fee simple.
- (b.) Lands held under perpetual (999 years) leases.
- (c.) Lands held under terminable leases, unexpired.
- (d.) Lands held under terminable leases, expired.
- (e.) Lands occupied under temporary permits or licensees.
- (f.) Lands occupied without authority.
- (g.) Lands unoccupied and unclaimed.

II. To demarcate, survey, and delineate on suitable maps, all lands held under existing titles or to be held under titles which it may be intended to issue, *and thus show also, for each district, the extent and position of the unalienated lands.*

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III.—To provide for the maintenance of boundary marks, and the prevention of future encroachments and unauthorised occupation of Crown lands.

IV.—To grant titles of a uniform character (but varying of course as to rates of rents, &c., according to the circumstances) for lands coming under the four last of the categories stated above.

V.—To provide for the collection of the revenue and (in the last resort) for the sale of the land in cases of non-payment of rent.

VI. To simplify the process and provide for the due record of all transfers of titles.

Survey.

56. The following statement shows the progress of the new survey of the Island from the initiation of the work in January, 1885, to the close of 1886 :—

—	Surveyed.	Unsurveyed.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
West, "Balik Pulau" - - -	9,651	—	9,651
South-west - - -	2,595	14,191	16,786
North-west - - -	350	24,069	24,419
South-east (1) - - -	71	5,169	5,240
Do. (2) - - -	2,060	2,618	4,678
Do. (3) - - -	3,040	1,916	4,956
North-east - - -	—	2,670	2,670
Total - - -	17,767	50,683	68,400

The work done has included the survey of—

	Miles.
Main roads - - -	40·86
Paths - - -	30·37
Rivers and streams - - -	31·73
Sea coasts - - -	30·23

57. Owing to difficulties incident to the earlier stages of a work of this nature, the survey of only 3,984 acres was completed in 1885, as against 13,783 in 1886. The total area surveyed, 17,767 acres, embraces 3,483 separate allotments. The demarcation of the allotments throughout the Island, with the exception of the "Town District," is now nearly completed.

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58. The map of "District No. II.," required by sections 14 and 15 of Ordinance VIII. of 1884, is now on the point of completion. As soon as it is finished the complete settlement of the District will be speedily accomplished.

59. In Province Wellesley two districts have been "proclaimed" under Ordinance VIII. of 1884, and on the portion of the country assigned to the district officer of Bukit Mertajam, a preliminary demarcation of allotments has been in progress, and "provisional agreements" in respect of lands, the position and extent of which is thus roughly ascertained, are being rapidly issued.

60. The following statement shows the numbers of statutory grants, leases, and agreements issued in 1886 and in the first quarter of 1887. The leases (for 999 years) were issued in cases where such titles had been promised. In future no (permanent) titles will be granted except in the form of statutory grants under Ordinance II. of 1886, which give titles in perpetuity subject to re-assessment of rent after every 30 years:—

	1886.		First Quarter, 1887	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
ISLAND.				
Statutory grants -	50	A. R. P. 86 3 0	29	A. R. P. 73 0 23
Leases -	1	0. 1 27	—	—
Agreements -	11	31" 2 0	15	45 2 10
Total -	62	118 2 27	44	118 2 33
PROVINCE.				
Statutory grants -	31	207 2 25	21	69 1 33
Leases -	236	1,319 0 12	—	—
Agreements -	29	78 0 30	109	290 0 16
Total -	296	1,604 3 36	130	359 2 9

FORESTS.

61. Two additional reserves were marked out during the year, viz.,—a "village reserve" on the hill-range running from the Ghinting Pass southward to the village of Pulau Betong and a "stream reserve" on the range between Paya Trubong and Bukit Penara (Low's Pass); the latter contains the sources of the town water supply.

The following is a statement of the whole of the existing reserves, including the above :—

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	Acres.
Main Range - - -	3,664
Bukit Laksamana - - -	1,160
Bukit Feringgi - - -	225
North-West Reserve - - -	2,808
Bukit Pulau Betong - - -	475
Bukit Ghinting - - -	40
Bukit Penara - - -	234
The Highlands - - -	227
Kubang Hulu (Province Wellesley) - - -	72
Total - - -	<u>8,905</u>

SHIPPING AND TRADE.

Shipping.

62. The following statement shows the numbers and tonnage of the vessels that arrived at and left the port in 1885 and 1886 :—

	1885.		1886.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
<i>Arrivals.</i>				
Steamers and square-rigged -	2,160	1,273,888	2,449	1,452,593
Native craft - - -	2,300	63,641	2,035	55,761
Total - - -	4,460	1,337,529	4,484	1,508,354
<i>Departures.</i>				
Steamers and square-rigged -	2,154	1,269,622	2,454	1,271,318
Native craft - - -	2,766	71,598	2,692	70,922
Total - - -	4,920	1,341,220	5,146	1,342,240

63. A statement showing whence and whither the vessels in 1886 arrived and sailed will be found in the Appendix C.

64. The discrepancies between the numbers and tonnage of the arrivals and departures arise from defects in the system of registration, which are now being inquired into.

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Imports and Exports.

65. The following statement shows the values of the imports and exports in 1885 and 1886, and the quarters whence and whither the merchandise was imported and exported :—

	1885.		1886.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
United Kingdom - -	4,407,672	7,809,997	4,305,604	8,992,093
Other European countries -	713,283	4,260,370	1,061,535	3,487,679
British Barmah - -	3,958,700	1,371,195	5,567,921	998,166
British India - -	3,245,616	1,922,277	2,907,689	1,880,045
Hongkong - -	4,149,671	3,243,874	4,575,727	3,974,878
Other British Possessions -	82,351	153,497	89,772	18,621
Malayan peninsula, West -	4,222,741	4,229,671	5,849,641	5,222,519
Siam, West coast - -	2,865,871	2,438,582	3,787,887	1,942,525
Netherlands India - -	5,816,568	7,652,945	7,774,140	8,490,058
China - -	672,980	1,037,394	670,818	1,171,574
Other Asiatic countries and Egypt.	676,628	190,997	1,567,245	498,005
United States - -	380,730	740,662	205,737	1,468,407
Singapore and Malacca -	1,976,650	1,386,122	2,881,076	2,067,937
Total - -	33,169,461	35,937,583	41,194,292	40,212,507

66. The following shows the values of the imports and exports in 1885 and 1886 of a few of the principal articles :—

	1885.		1886.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Grain and flour - -	3,960,916	2,649,488	5,749,792	1,192,182
Opium - -	1,682,720	1,364,863	1,472,482	1,487,991
Chandoo - -	—	155,865	—	600
Spices - -	3,260,803	4,329,249	3,098,714	4,185,429
Sugar - -	54,000	1,054,671	105,035	1,490,552
Tobacco and cigars - -	2,865,294	4,170,060	4,921,134	3,452,321
Tin - -	6,282,809	7,539,360	8,759,423	10,010,167

CURRENCY.

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Bank Imports of Specie.

67. The following statement has been compiled from returns of the imports of specie in 1885 and 1886, with which the managers of the banks have been so good as to furnish me:—

Imports, 1885 and 1886.	Mexican Dollars.	Spanish Pillar Dollars.	Japanese Yens.	Total.
1885.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Europe - - -	1,985,998	—	—	1,985,998
America - - -	313,983	—	—	313,983
China - - -	579,000	456,900	—	1,035,900
India - - -	—	2,242	—	2,242
Java - - -	—	57,300	—	57,300
Japan - - -	—	—	465,631	465,631
Singapore - -	217,000	16,286	—	233,286
Total, 1885 -	3,095,981	532,728	465,631	4,094,340
1886.				
Europe - - -	1,836,900	—	—	1,836,900
China - - -	825,600	286,000	—	1,111,600
Japan - - -	—	—	2,355,000	2,355,000
Singapore - -	215,000	17,000	—	232,000
Total, 1886 -	2,877,500	303,000	2,355,000	5,535,500

British Dollars.

68. On several occasions in the course of 1886 the London market price of Mexican dollars (Touch 900) exceeded that of standard silver (Touch 925). In the *China Express* of the 2nd July, for example, Mexicans were quoted at 44½*d.* and standard silver at only 44½*d.* per ounce.

Taking the price of standard silver to be (say) 15 pence per ounce, the value of Mexican dollars (considered as bullion) computes to about 43½ ($\frac{900}{15} \times 45d$). And as the cost of coining dollars in England would probably not much exceed one farthing an

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ounce,* the total cost of a British dollar (the price of standard silver being 45 pence per ounce) would be about 44 pence per ounce.

Gold Leaf.

69. Gold leaf in bongkals of 832 grains, valued at \$44 per bongkal, may be said to form part of the currency of the Settlement in respect of its external trade. Such gold leaf was imported by the mail steamers in 1886 to the value of \$562,948 as against \$805,760 in 1885. A large proportion of the article is said to be exported to Sumatra, where it is believed to be hoarded to a large extent.

Bank Notes.

70. The bank note circulation of the three Chartered Banks in Penang at the close of 1886 amounted to \$2,214,973 as against \$1,565,036 at the close of 1885. The certified amount of the specie reserve, at the close of two years respectively, was \$850,000 and \$630,000. The duty on bank notes under Ordinance X. of 1885 is a composition of $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. per month on the average value of the notes in circulation. I would repeat the opinion expressed in my report for 1885 that, in a colony such as this, the issue of bank notes should be in the hands of the Government, and that an issue of one-dollar notes should form part of the scheme.

POST OFFICE.

71. The following statements give the figures for 1885 and 1886 in regard to the Post Office business in the three branches, Post Office proper, Money Order Office, and Savings Bank :—

Post Office business.	1885.		1886.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters - - -	187,028	165,674	227,712	205,430
Newspapers - - -	91,881	54,227	62,296	25,630
Books, &c. - - -	13,828	6,281	22,069	7,582
Total - - -	292,737	226,182	312,077	238,642

* The cost of coining half-dollar pieces, at the Royal Mint, shortly after the transfer, appears to have been 17s. 6d. per thousand. At the same rate per coin the cost for a thousand dollars (weighing 866 ounces) would be less than one farthing per ounce.

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Money Order business.	1885.		1886.	
	Issued.	Paid.	Issued.	Paid.
Local - - -	₹ 3,383	₹ 2,114	₹ 4,848	₹ 2,087
Native States - - -	283	6,188	1,237	11,145
India - - - -	17,607	568	16,410	967
France, China, Ceylon, Australia, Mauritius.	2,175	275	3,376	203
United Kingdom - -	6,775	152	6,457	562
Total - - -	30,223	9,297	31,828	14,914

Savings Bank.	1885.	1886.
Accounts opened - - - -	No. 104	No. 108
Accounts closed - - - -	84	108
Accounts open at the end of the year -	162	162
Deposited during the year - - -	₹ 18,989	₹ 19,326
Repaid during the year - - -	14,020	19,768
Interest credited to depositors - -	753	788
Balance due to depositors at the close of the year - - - -	22,513	22,969

72. The Settlement is still at the disadvantage of having no regular mail service to Europe beyond the fortnightly service of the P. & O. contract steamers. To ensure catching the French mail at Singapore it is generally necessary to write the day after the P & O. leaves ; and the outward French mail letters seldom arrive earlier than a day before the P. & O. mail letters of the following week,

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Education.

73. The following statement gives particulars of the enrolment and attendance of the schools in 1885 and 1886 and the "passes" obtained by the scholars at the Government examinations:—

Schools.	1885.					1886.				
	No. of School.	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Presented for Examination.	Per-centage of Passes.	No. of School.	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Presented for Examination.	Per-centage of Passes.
Free School - - -	1	560	473	433	85	1	541	450	401	87
St. Xavier's Institution -	1	240	206	173	95	1	255	220	176	92
Pulau Tikus Mission School -	1	71	56	57	08	1	95	82	71	68
Government Branch School:— Charasta - - -	1	198	172	110	97	1	247	226	148	90
Balik Pulau - - -	1	19	16	—	—	1	23	20	13	72
Vernacular Schools (Malay):— P. W. Island - - -	24	1,229	1,054	737	76	24	1,436	1,263	840	77
Pro. Wellesley - - -	37	1,584	1,330	965	81	36	1,433	1,227	809	64
Tamil Mission School - -	1	41	30	20	88	1	46	33	23	80
Convent Girls' School - -	1	224	210	123	94	1	275	253	119	89
St. George's Girls' School -	1	31	15	17	89	1	36	24	17	71
Vernacular Girls' Schools (Malay):— P. W. Island - - -	4	82	74	—	—	6	209	179	32	88
Pro. Wellesley - - -	4	70	59	—	—	4	142	122	11	100
Total - - -	77	4,340	3,695	2,635	86	78	4,743	4,098	2,660	79

The "per-centage of passes" is calculated from the numbers "presented for examination." In judging of the relative efficiency of the several schools, therefore, it is necessary to give an eye to the proportions between the numbers "presented" and the numbers of the "average enrolment."

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

SUPREME COURT.

Number of *Sittings*.

74. Reckoning as two days the days on which two judges were presiding in separate courts, the court sat in 1885 and 1886:—

	1885.	1886.
	Days.	Days.
On the criminal side - -	110	84
On the civil side - - -	127	167
On the ecclesiastical side - -	26	38
Total - - -	263	289

Numbers of Criminal Cases.

75. The criminal cases tried in 1885 and 1886 were as follows :—

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	Numbers of Prisoners.			
	1885.		1886.	
	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
Murder - - -	5	6	5	8
Murder, attempt - - -	4	2	2	1
Manslaughter - - -	7	10	5	2
Grievous hurt - - -	14	4	12	5
Other offences against the person -	41	15	28	8
Robbery with violence - -	31	11	16	13
Theft, housebreaking - -	51	25	47	23
Other offences against property -	17	4	8	4
Miscellaneous offences - -	12	12	18	26
Total - - -	182	89	141	90
	271		231	

Numbers of Civil Cases.

76. The business on the civil, ecclesiastical, and bankruptcy sides of the court during 1886 and the two preceding years is stated in the following table, which gives also the figures for the first quarter of 1887 :—

	Civil Actions.						Probate and Administration.		Debtor Summonses and Bankruptcy Cases.	
	Pending.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending.	No.	Amount.	Debtor Summonses.	Bankruptcy Cases.
1884 - - -	388	593	690,181	54	227	710	201	457,978	6	5
1885 - - -	710	634	440,737	68	268	1,002	203	358,112	3	3
1886 - - -	1,002	704	411,328	281	791	634	659	721,756	2	5

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77. The diminution in 1886 of the arrears of civil business, which had previously been on the increase, is attributable to the appointment of a second judge of the Supreme Court, for the Penang Division, in 1886.* The course thus adopted has been effectual, but it appears worth considering whether similar results would not be attained, at less cost to the Government and to the suitors, by an extension of the jurisdiction of the Court of Requests and the appointment of an additional commissioner.

78. The bulk and intricacy of the cases coming before the courts would, I believe, be greatly reduced by a trenchant Statute of Limitations. For all ordinary transactions, 12 months would perhaps be an adequate period: and I believe that such a restriction of the limits of legal recovery would have a most wholesome effect on the arrangements both of traders and non-traders. For the latter class, indeed, a system of *no credit*, of compulsory cash payments, would probably be one of the greatest boons that could be conferred upon them.

POLICE COURTS AND COURTS OF REQUESTS.

79. The following statements give particulars of the business done in the courts:—

Police Court.	1885.				
	Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.
George Town	194	7,138	4,161	122	11,615
Belik Pulau					
Belau					
Butterworth					
Penaga	22	844	686	20	1,552
Bukit Tambun	22	138	100	14	274
Nibong Tebal	16	863	215	19	1,103
Bukit Mertajam	5	632	238	2	857
Marine Magistrate	23	336	263	15	632
	—	14	24	—	38

(continued.)

Police Court.	1886.				
	Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.
George Town	206	8,422	4,701	124	13,451
Belik Pulau	14	365	153	—	529
Belau	15	136	41	—	182
Butterworth	27	1,002	683	37	1,949
Penaga	3	148	53	14	213
Bukit Tambun	14	661	241	7	923
Nibong Tebal	8	604	237	1	850
Bukit Mertajam	7	686	377	12	1,082
Marine Magistrate	—	23	5	—	28

* A second judge was sitting during about six months of the year.

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Courts of Requests. (Jurisdiction up to \$50.)	1885.		1886.	
	No. of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages.	No. of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages.
		\$ c.		\$ c.
George Town - -	2,941	81,385 00	2,966	38,797 00
Balik Pulau - -	62	632 00	128	1,153 00
Relau - - -	57	518 00	67	758 00
Butterworth - -	227	3,908 73	301	4,155 93
Penaga - - -	211	1,487 99	199	1,585 71
Bukit Tambun - -	104	1,390 92	116	1,518 02
Nibong Tebal - -	143	1,408 94	126	1,481 15
Bukit Mertajam - -	151	1,523 65	252	2,653 38

Coroners.

80. Coroners' inquests to the number of 158 were held during the year, as against 194 in 1885. The following statement gives particulars of the verdicts :—

	1885.			1886.		
	Penang.	Province Wellesley.	Total.	Penang.	Province Wellesley.	Total.
Homicide, culpable, amounting to murder -	9	7	16	8	2	10
Do. culpable, not amounting to murder -	3	1	4	4	1	5
Do. through rash and negligent act -	1	—	1	1	—	1
Do. justifiable - - -	1	—	1	—	—	—
Do. by misadventure - - -	—	1	1	—	—	—
Felo-de-se - - - -	10	14	24	14	15	29
Self-destruction under temporary insanity -	5	—	5	—	—	—
Death in pursuance of judicial sentence -	1	—	1	3	—	3
Natural causes, accidental death, &c. -	103	35	138	59	51	110
Total - - -	133	61	194	89	69	158

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POLICE.

Police Stations.

81. The following statement shows the number of police stations at present established :—

Prince of Wales' Island :—

George Town and suburbs	-	-	12
North-east districts	-	-	6
South-west districts	-	-	7

Province Wellesley :—

Northern districts	-	-	13
Southern districts	-	-	10
			<hr/> 48 <hr/>

82. Additional stations will be built this year at Permatang Damar Laut in the south of the Island, at Dusun Lada on the Muda River (the northern frontier of Province Wellesley), and at the islet "Pulau Krah."

Police Force.

83. The following statement gives particulars of the police force of the settlement below the rank of inspector as provided for by the Colonial estimates for 1885, 1886, and 1887, and the effective force as it stood on the 31st December 1886 :—

	Estimates.			Effective, 31st December 1886.
	1885.	1886.	1887.	
Europeans - - -	28	28	28	23
Sikhs - - -	72	64	64	63
Malays and Klings - -	521	599	674	589
Total - -	621	691	766	675

Homicide Cases.

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84. The following statement shows the number of verdicts of homicide found at coroners' inquests in 1885 and 1886, and gives particulars of the verdicts found at the Supreme Court in respect of such cases belonging to those years :—

	Coroners' Verdicts.		Supreme Court Verdicts.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
Murder - - - -	16	10	4	2
Manslaughter - - -	4	5	6	3 -
Rash act - - - -	—	—	—	3
Not guilty (insanity) - -	—	—	1	—
Acquittal - - - -	—	—	4	4
Nolle Prosequi - - -	—	—	1	1
Total - - -	20	15	16	18

85. It appears, therefore, that in 1885, out of 20 cases of homicide, convictions were obtained in only 11 cases ; and that in 1886, out of 16 cases, convictions were obtained in only 8 cases.

86. Gang robberies have been of frequent occurrence both in Penang and Province Wellesley, and although the Police have met with a fair amount of success in tracing offenders, the crime does not diminish. There seems little doubt that the greater number of these robberies are planned by professional robbers from Swatow, of whom, I am informed, a large number have come to this Settlement during the last few years, and I would strongly urge the advisability of dealing with such persons by "deportation" or other special methods, as soon as sufficient evidence of their character and designs is forthcoming, instead of waiting till the crimes are actually committed which it is their business and profession to project.

87. Many of these robberies, I am informed by the superintendent of police, are committed by men coming from a place called Kûlim, situated in Kédah Territory within a mile of the frontier near Machang Buboh in Province Wellesley. This place has a large mining population and has become a rendezvous for bad characters and runaway coolies from the province ; and once escaped thither, the Kédah Government appears practically to have little or no power to effect their arrest and extradition.

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Illegal Gaming.

88. The special operations against common gaming houses, referred to in paragraph 83 of my report for 1885, appear to have had permanently good effect. Gaming in the notorious houses in Beach Street and other places appears to have been abandoned.

It is reported to be still carried on in the Chinese Clubs, but this is a minor evil. If certain well-to-do Chinamen choose to arrange among themselves to fling away their money in gaming (for the benefit of professional stake-holders) in *quasi* private establishments, it is perhaps no great harm to anybody but themselves. It is a very different thing when the gaming houses are flaunted before the public as they used to be (till the matter was taken in hand at the beginning of last year) and coolies and other poor folk tempted into such places by open solicitations and then stripped of their earnings by processes which make the final transfer of the whole of the stakes to the croupier a mathematical certainty. Inveterate gamblers will always find opportunities for gambling, but thousands of people who would never dream of seeking out secreted gaming houses will play if the opportunity is presented to them—as thousands of English people used to play at the tables of Homburg or Baden who never saw, and were never likely to see, the inside of a gaming house in London.

Lotteries.

89. The Superintendent of Police reports that most of the lotteries ("Whah-Whays") have been broken up. This result appears attributable to the magistrates' convictions, in more recent cases, having been successfully maintained on appeal to the Supreme Court. The result is the more gratifying as this form of gambling presents temptations to classes of people, women as well as men, whom the allurements of even recognised legalised gaming houses would not reach.

Commission of Inquiry.

90. A Commission was appointed by the Governor in April, 1886, for the purpose of making inquiry into the question of public gaming and public lotteries in the Colony, and additional members of the committee were appointed for Penang, in June. Fourteen sittings of the Penang division of the Commission were held, under the presidency of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, during the month of July. The report of the Commission was laid before his Excellency on the 24th September 1886.

PRISONS.

91. The following statement gives particulars of the committals and discharges, &c. of prisoners in 1885 and 1886 :—

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	1885.					
	Remaining.	Committed.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Died.	Executed.
<i>Civil Prison.</i>						
Europeans and Eurasians -	—	16	15	—	—	—
Chinese - - -	22	1,333	1,276	93	2	2
Malays - - -	2	44	23	14	—	—
Klings - - -	8	58	21	39	1	—
Total - - -	32	1,501	1,335	146	3	2
<i>Criminal Prison.</i>						
Europeans and Eurasians -	8	66	62	—	—	—
Chinese - - -	168	1,406	1,271	106	3	—
Malays - - -	45	239	216	23	1	—
Klings - - -	73	779	778	21	—	—
Total - - -	289	2,490	2,327	150	4	—

	1886.						
	Remaining.	Committed.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Died.	Executed.	Remaining.
<i>Civil Prison.</i>							
Europeans and Eurasians -	1	10	9	1	—	—	1
Chinese - - -	32	1,259	1,160	80	1	3	47
Malays - - -	9	191	163	24	1	—	19
Klings - - -	5	120	103	16	—	—	6
Total - - -	47	1,580	1,435	121	2	3	66
<i>Criminal Prison.</i>							
Europeans and Eurasians -	7	46	51	—	—	—	2
Chinese - - -	194	1,463	1,357	86	11	—	203
Malays - - -	44	265	232	29	—	—	48
Klings - - -	53	1,151	1,098	17	—	—	89
Total - - -	298	2,925	2,738	132	11	—	342

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Numbers committed.

92. The numbers of prisoners committed to prison for purposes of penal imprisonment during the last 10 years, as shown by the Blue Book returns, have been as follows:—

1877 -	-	-	-	-	2,181
1878 -	-	-	-	-	2,873
1879 -	-	-	-	-	2,542
1880 -	-	-	-	-	2,511
1881 -	-	-	-	-	1,717
1882 -	-	-	-	-	1,824
1883 -	-	-	-	-	1,782
1884 -	-	-	-	-	1,965
1885 -	-	-	-	-	2,490
1886 -	-	-	-	-	2,925

Classification of Prisoners.

93. The committals in 1885 and 1886 may be classified as follows, in accordance with (1) the period of the sentences; (2) the numbers of previous convictions; and (3) the nationalities.

Periods of Sentences.

Sentences.	1885.	1886.
Not exceeding six months -	2,306	2,773
Over six months to one year -	65	12
Over one year to two years -	51	89
Over two years -	68	51
Total	2,490	2,925

Previous Convictions.

Convictions.	1885.	1886.
First -	1,992	2,638
Second -	250	142
Third -	110	74
Fourth -	59	25
Fifth -	29	17
Sixth and over -	50	29
Total	2,490	2,925

Nationalities.

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—	1885.	1886.
Europeans and Eurasians - -	66	46
Chinese - - - -	1,406	1,463
Malays - - - -	239	265
Klings - - - -	779	1,151
Total - - - -	2,490	2,925

94. The 2,925 prisoners committed in 1886, included 837 Tamil coolies and 49 Chinese coolies sentenced for "Desertion," "Neglect to labour," &c., under the Ordinances V. of 1884 and IV. of 1880. As such sentences are passed to enforce civil contracts, it seems a question whether the employers of the labourers should not be required to pay for the maintenance of the prisoners, more especially in cases in which the prisoners are found on admission to be incapacitated for hard labour by disease or debility. Since August last I have been furnished with monthly returns of all prisoners found on admission to be unfit for hard labour, and they give the following results:—

—	Desertion, neglect to labour, &c.	Other offences.
August 1886 - - -	2	16
September „ - - -	12	16
October „ - - -	6	20
November „ - - -	4	16
December „ - - -	2	10
January 1887 - - -	11	15
February „ - - -	10	19
March „ - - -	14	13

Employment.

95. The bulk of the prisoners were employed throughout the year at stone-breaking, for $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day. The quantity of

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road-metal produced is about 1,400 cubic yards per month, which is sold to the Municipality at the rate of 10 cents per cubic yard. Two hundred open cells for prisoners engaged on this employment are now being constructed.

Gaol Accommodation.

96. The number of separate cells in the three blocks, of which the Criminal Prison is composed, is 296. The number of criminal prisoners at the close of the year was 342, so that at that date 46 prisoners were unavoidably kept in association wards. The new prison ward at the Pauper Hospital (*see* paragraph 33) will make some reduction in the numbers for which accommodation in the gaol would otherwise be required, but still I am of opinion that an additional block of cells should be erected, unless the number of estate coolies under sentences for desertion, &c. can be materially reduced (*see* paragraph 39); or unless, as suggested in my report for 1885, a separate House of Correction is maintained for such prisoners in Province Wellesley.

97. The establishment of a reformatory for juvenile offenders is another way in which (to a limited extent) the gaol accommodation might be supplemented, while it would, at the same time, supply a much-felt want.

Prison Officers.

98. The Superintendent of Prisons repeats the complaints made in previous years of the inefficiency of the staff of native warders. Nothing will probably remedy this evil but a considerable increase in the scale of pay such as would attract a higher class of men—Sikhs, for example, of the class who now enter the police force.

Health Dietary

99. The number of deaths in the gaol in 1886, including one suicide, was 13. The average daily number of prisoners was 380. In nine of the cases the prisoners were found on admission to be unfit for gaol labour, and were sent to the hospital. None of the deaths appear to have been attributable to causes specially connected with gaol regimen.

100. The largest number of admissions to hospitals was from a sub-acute form of dysentery, which the Medical Officer attributes to the black bean used in the prison rations. This might perhaps be remedied by removing the husk of the beans before they are cooked, or substituting for them "dholl" or some other form of "split-peas" or "split-beans."

The following are the diet scales now in force for native prisoners:—

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	Long-sentence.	Short-sentence.	Penal.	Punishment.
	Ounces daily.	Same as for long sentence, except that 4 oz. of salt fish is substituted for 6 oz. of fresh meat six days a week.	Ounces daily.	Ounces daily.
Rice - - - -	14		20	18
Fresh meat - - - -	6		—	—
Fresh fish - - - -	4		—	—
Vegetables - - - -	7		4	—
Beans - - - -	5		5	6
Dholl - - - -	2		—	—
Cocoanut oil - - - -	1		—	—
Curry stuff - - - -	1		1	—
Salt - - - -	1		$\frac{3}{4}$	1
Wheat flour - - - -	$4\frac{1}{2}$		$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$

101. Penal diet is given in the case of prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for periods of six weeks and under for the whole time of their sentences; and for two days a week to all prisoners in the lower grade.

102. The following statement gives an analysis of the long-sentence dietary calculated in accordance with a table showing the "nutritive value of different foods," given at page 163 of Morris' "Book of Health":—

	Albuminates.	Fats.	Carbo-Hydrates.	Salts.
	Grains.	Grains.	Grains.	Grains.
Rice - - - 14 oz.	307	49	5,096	81
Beans and dholl - - 7 "	674	61	1,623	74
Wheat flour - - - $4\frac{1}{2}$ "	216	40	1,384	34
Fresh fish - - - 4 "	319	51	—	18
Fresh meat (fat pork) - 4* "	172	856	—	40
Oil - - - 1 "	—	437	—	—
Vegetables - - - 7 "	6	15	177	21
Curry stuff - - - 1 "	—	—	—	—
Salt - - - 1 "	—	—	—	—
Grains - - -	1,694	1,509	8,280	218

* Equivalent to 6 ozs. weighed with the bone.

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103. The "fresh meat" supplied to Chinese prisoners consists of very fat pork. That supplied to Malays and Indians consists of very lean beef, mutton, or goat. The analysis of 4 ounces of "lean meat" (equal to six ounces weighed with the bone) is as follows :—

Albuminates	-	-	-	-	359
Fats	-	-	-	-	61
Carbo-hydrates	-	-	-	-	Nil
Salts	-	-	-	-	28

and making allowance for this substitution, the dietary gives the results shown in the third column of the statement below. In the fourth column I give the figures for a normal dietary, as stated at page 162 of the work above referred to as being the quantities of the "alimentary substances, in a dry state, required daily for the support of an ordinary working man of average height and weight":—

—	Prison dietary.		Normal dietary.
	Chinese.	Malays and Indians.	
Albuminates - - -	Grains. 1,694	Grains. 1,881	Grains. 2,006
Fats - - -	1,509	714	1,296
Carbo-hydrates - - -	8,280	8,280	6,234
Salts - - -	218	206	462
Grains - -	11,701	11,081	9,998

104. The alterations in the dietary which these figures seem to suggest are as follows :—

- (1.) A reduction of the carbo-hydrates, by a diminution of the quantity of rice.
- (2.) An increase of the albuminates, which might be given in the form of salt fish, which has probably more than three times the nutritive value of the same weight of fresh fish.
- (3.) The equalization of the fats, by reducing the ration of oil given to the Chinese and increasing that given to the Malays and Indians.
- (4.) An increase in the salts, by giving rations of fruits, such as limes, pineapples and other kinds, which are rich in potash salts.

105. I may add that I am not confident that the rice supplied to the prisons has the full nutritive value ascribed to it above.

Rangoon rice, in order to bring it to the colour that is fancied by the shippers, is pounded (by machinery) till it weighs 30 per cent. less than the same quantity of grain that has been cleaned by hand. The natives of Burma, I am informed, do not themselves eat this machine-pounded rice; and in this Settlement, and in the Native States, such rice is commonly considered to be unwholesome; and it appears to be not altogether improbable that the outer pellicles of the rice, which are lost through such excessive cleaning, may contain a large proportion of the more valuable constituents of the grain.

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ADMINISTRATION.

Resident Councillor's Office.

106. Two attempts have been made to provide the Resident Councillor's Department with an assistant. The first was in connexion with assistance also required in the Chinese Protectorate, but the requirements of that department were so urgent that the services of the officer who was appointed to the double duty have been entirely confined to the Protectorate work. On the second occasion, an officer was sent to hold the appointment of Assistant Postmaster-General in connexion with that of Assistant in the Resident Councillor's Office, but his services were at once required to fill up the temporary vacancy in another department, and he has been so employed up to the present date, while the duties of the Post Office have been carried on by the Superintendent of Education.

107. Over 5,000 letters are registered in the Resident Councillor's Office every year, and there are probably another 1,000 papers (chiefly from the Land and Public Works Departments) which pass through the office without being registered. In dealing with the business so brought before me, and in personal interviews with the Government officers and others, and in the performance of my duties as President of the Municipal Commission and of half a dozen separate committees, I find that I am hard at work every day from six o'clock in the morning till four in the afternoon. Two-thirds of this time, probably, are employed in work which at Singapore would not get beyond the Second Assistant Colonial Secretary, and I think that the time and attention of an officer in the position of the Resident Councillor are somewhat misapplied in dealing with such a mass of formal matter, and that he should be set free for work of a higher character (of which he would find plenty if he set himself to look for it) by the appointment of a regular assistant who should give his whole time to the duties.

District Officers.

108. "District officers" were appointed in March and August, 1886, for the districts of Balik Pulau in the Island, and Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley. These officers act as collectors

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of land revenue, as Magistrates and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, and as coroners. So far the experiment appears to have been thoroughly successful, and I am disposed to recommend the completion of the scheme, for this Settlement by assigning Land Office and coroner's duties to the present Magistrate at Butterworth, and so constituting him district officer for the northern division of the Province; and by establishing a new district office at Nibong Tēbal for the southern division, Bukit Mertājam constituting the central division.

109. Residences are being built this year for the district officers at Balik Pulau and Bukit Mertājam, and Offices will be built at the latter place in 1888. At Balik Pulau there is sufficient accommodation for the offices at the court house.

The Centenary.

110. The hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Settlement was celebrated on the 12th of August 1886, and public festivities in honour of the occasion were held during the week from the 10th to the 16th of the month. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Weld were present on the occasion, as were also their Highnesses the Sultan of Kēdah, the Sultan of the State and territory of Johor, the Rāja Regent (now Sultan) of Pērak, his Excellency the Siamese Commissioner for the Western Provinces, the Dato Klana of Sungei Ujong, and other personages of distinction.

111. An enduring memorial of the centenary has been established in the form of two scholarships—one for the Free School, Penang, and one for the Brothers' School, Penang—by the munificence of Mr. Koh Seang Tat, Justice of the Peace, whose great-grandfather came to these seas a few years prior to the founding of the Settlement, and whose intermediate ancestors were equally with himself British-born subjects.

(Signed)

C. J. IRVING,

Resident Councillor's Office,

Resident Councillor.

Penang, 28th April 1887.

APPENDIX A.

STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

Revenue and Expenditure, Penang, including Payments by the Crown Agents.

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	1885.	1886.		1885.	1886.
Land revenue - -	\$ 35,619	\$ 47,122	Salaries - - -	\$ 308,996	\$ 309,577
Rents, exclusive of land -	4,365	232	Allowances - - -	—	2,617
Licenses - - -	738,000	876,000	Contingencies - - -	5,482	5,708
Stamps - - -	90,748	124,099	Pensions - - -	20,847	28,653
Port and harbour dues -	14,818	17,572	Revenue services -	9,006	42,706
Postage - - -	26,385	29,168	Administration of justice	3,517	3,637
Fines, fees and forfeitures of Court - - -	23,009	21,750	Ecclesiastical - - -	716	729
Fees of office - - -	7,496	7,763	Charitable allowances -	1,458	2,509
Reimbursements - -	32,474	39,140	Education - - -	29,096	18,343
Sale of Government property - - -	523	413	Medical - - -	41,276	46,023
Interest - - -	14,224	13,511	Police - - -	16,742	18,623
Miscellaneous receipts -	112	25,438	Gaols - - -	12,093	20,962
Special receipts - -	13,173	13,830	Harbour department -	3,067	3,060
Reimbursements - -	—	—	Lighthouses - - -	3,466	4,372
Reclamation works -	186,282	—	Government vessels -	5,878	5,768
			Postal services - - -	2,098	3,197
			Rent - - -	—	3,264
			Transport - - -	23,307	26,062
			Miscellaneous services -	22,863	36,073
			Works and buildings -	195,494	156,385
			Roads, streets and bridges	123,944	100,164
			Land and houses purchased - - -	3,855	1,055
			Military expenditure -	240	240
			Special expenses - -	146	2,955
			Reclamation works -	132,016	77,843
Total - - -	1,199,288	1,216,688	Total - - -	963,971	977,539

STRAITS
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APPENDIX B.

PENANG.

Abstract of the Municipal Accounts, Penang, for 1886.

PRINCE OF WALES' ISLAND.

DEBTOR.				CREDITOR.			
Rates, town	-	-	\$ 77,377	Secretary's department	-	\$ 20,291	
Rates, country	-	-	13,109	Engineer's department	-	8,189	
Taxes	-	-	11,311	Conservancy of town	-	32,410	
Rents, markets	-	-	14,659	Roads, town	-	42,451	
Rents, miscellaneous	-	-	3,632	Roads, country	-	9,321	
Miscellaneous receipts	-	-	6,684	Main drainage, town	-	18,027	
				New market	-	3,554	
				New Prangin bath-house	-	2,356	
				Police	-	20,000	
				Interest	-	11,494	
				Miscellaneous	-	6,782	
WATER SUPPLY.				WATER SUPPLY.			
General rate	-	-	2,100	Town maintenance	-	6,861	
Domestic rate	-	-	26,103	Iron piping, &c.	-	3,753	
Miscellaneous	-	-	10,105				
PROVINCE WELLESLEY.				PROVINCE WELLESLEY.			
Rates	-	-	27,515	Assessors' department	-	6,815	
Taxes	-	-	7,086	Conservancy	-	1,408	
Total revenue	-	-	199,581	Total expenditure	-	193,642	
Advances repaid	-	-	20,866	Advances	-	20,200	
Balance, 1st January, 1886	-	-	30,932	Loans repaid	-	20,000	
				Deposited with bank	-	1,094	
				Balance, 31st December 1886	-	16,443	
Total	-	-	251,379	Total	-	251,379	

APPENDIX C.

SHIPPING

*Arrivals and Departures, 1886.*STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

	ARRIVALS.				DEPARTURES.			
	Steamers and Square-rigged.		Native Craft.		Steamers and Square-rigged.		Native Craft.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom -	142	223,243	—	—	58	84,319	—	—
Austria -	7	12,446	—	—	1	2,011	—	—
France -	6	6,461	—	—	4	4,368	—	—
Germany -	40	53,455	—	—	4	8,106	—	—
Italy -	3	7,335	—	—	1	2,367	—	—
Russia -	1	1,021	—	—	1	1,685	—	—
Arabia -	2	1,606	—	—	1	1,574	—	—
Mauritius -	1	417	—	—	—	—	—	—
British India :—								
Bengal -	81	143,806	—	—	59	88,593	—	—
Burma -	158	118,331	20	2,371	144	95,530	26	2,304
Madras -	58	54,319	—	—	43	51,096	—	—
French India -	—	—	—	—	1	1,113	—	—
Ceylon -	20	39,859	—	—	7	9,493	—	—
Siam, West Provinces -	44	8,348	766	19,104	59	7,058	977	22,771
Malay Peninsula, West -	672	62,970	782	18,960	704	58,768	1,062	23,870
Malay Peninsula, East -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sumatra -	667	134,359	414	12,216	685	232,569	582	17,707
Other Dutch Islands -	13	10,070	—	—	13	11,660	—	—
Philippines -	1	967	—	—	6	5,241	—	—
Siam, Proper -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
French Cochin China -	1	1,360	—	—	6	7,104	—	—
China -	65	104,394	9	780	249	194,417	2	459
Hong Kong -	53	83,008	—	—	35	63,634	—	—
Japan -	—	—	—	—	7	8,184	—	—
America -	10	7,919	—	—	16	30,259	—	—
Australia -	1	187	—	—	—	—	—	—
Between the Settlements :—								
Singapore -	404	376,685	4	233	349	301,365	43	2,630
Malacca -	—	—	31	2,097	1	405	—	—
Total -	2,449	1,452,593	2,085	55,761	2,464	1,271,313	2,692	70,922

HONG KONG.

HONG KONG.

No. 14.

Administrator Major-General W. G. CAMERON to
Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Hong Kong,
May 2, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the Blue Book for 1886, and a report thereon by Mr. Seth, chief clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

2. I regret that it was not possible to have these documents placed in your hands earlier, but the printer has been so pressed with work in connexion with the Law Revision Committee and the Legislative Council that he could not get it finished sooner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. G. CAMERON.

The Right Hon.

Sir Henry T. Holland, Bart., M.P., G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1886, presented to the Legislative Council by Command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government on 22nd April 1887.

1.—TAXATION.

The following changes were made in 1886 in the taxes of the Colony:—

Piers and Wharves.

(a.) By an Order of the Governor in Council, conveyed in Colonial Secretary's Office Document No. 495 of 1886, a fee of \$7½ is levied for every permit to erect a pier or wharf in the villages other than a pier or wharf authorised by Ordinance.

Spirit Licences.

(b.) By Ordinance 21 of 1886 the fees for spirit licences were re-adjusted.

Coffee Houses and Restaurants.

HONG KONG.

(c.) By the same Ordinance a fee was also fixed for coffee houses and restaurants.

Stamp Duties.

(d.) The Stamp Duties were re-adjusted by Ordinance 16 of 1886.

Bills of Sale.

(e.) By Ordinance 12 of 1886 a scale of fees was fixed for the registration of bills of sale.

Vehicles and Chairs.

(f.) By an Order of the Governor in Council of the 22nd October 1886, made under Ordinance 5 of 1883, the half-yearly fee for a wheeled vehicle was raised from \$3 to \$6 per annum.

Fees.

There were no changes in the personal fees received by the several officers in the several departments.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue, omitting premia from land sales, amounted to \$1,367,977 74; and the expenditure, including extraordinary works, amounted to \$2,020,861 65. Premia from land sales realised in 1886, the sum of \$34,731 59.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years have been :—

Year.	Revenue.	Premia from Land.	Ordinary Expenditure.	Extraordinary Expenditure.
1882 - -	\$ 1,909,517 08	\$ 18,830 77	\$ 1,094,804 92	\$ —
1883 - -	1,289,448 29	25,718 65	1,162,247 14	180,052 10
1884 - -	1,173,071 48	19,695 00	1,254,634 77	340,763 62
1885 - -	1,251,889 70	66,658 50	1,146,103 15	475,147 24
1886 - -	1,367,977 74	34,731 59	1,195,236 81	825,624 84

HONG KONG.

3.—LOCAL REVENUES.

The Chinese inhabitants contributed in 1886, by voluntary assessment among themselves, to the pay of the district watchmen \$2,863 32, and received from the Government a grant in aid of \$2,000 00.

4.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December 1886 the liabilities of the Colony exceeded its assets by \$191,512 29.

The surplus assets of the preceding four years have been as follows:—

				\$	c.
1882	-	-	-	1,148,664	39
1883	-	-	-	1,067,200	52
1884	-	-	-	729,562	02
1885	-	-	-	427,692	42

5.—PUBLIC DEBT.

There was no public debt in 1886.

6.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The military expenditure defrayed by the Colony during the last five years has been as follows:—

				\$	c.
1882	-	-	-	109,372	52
1883	-	-	-	111,962	09
1884	-	-	-	114,498	78
1885	-	-	-	117,337	00
1886	-	-	-	124,561	68

7.—GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

New Market.

(a.) Houses Nos. 30 to 36 inclusive, Praya Central, were resumed by the Government for building the new Central Market.

Tide-Gauge.

(b.) The house for keeping the automatic tide-gauge, which was erected and ready for use in July 1885, was occupied in October 1886 upon the arrival of the tide-gauge and apparatus from England.

*Government House.*HONG KONG.

(c.) Government House was maintained in repair, and the sanitary arrangements were satisfactory.

8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Several public works were completed during the year, among which may be mentioned :—

- (a.) Sanitary works to the extent of over \$99,000.
- (b.) General repairs to Mountain Lodge.
- (c.) A temporary Matched Police Station at the Peak.
- (d.) Extension of the Cattle Depot.
- (e.) The Lazaretto on Stone Cutters' Island.

9.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

- No. 1 of 1886.—An Ordinance to empower the Colonial Treasurer to pay otherwise than to Executors or Administrators small sums due on account of Pay or Allowances to Persons deceased.
- No. 2 of 1886.—An Ordinance for the better Apportionment of Rents and other Periodical Payments.
- No. 3 of 1886.—An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Larceny and Embezzlement.
- No. 4 of 1886.—An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to the Custody of Infants.
- No. 5 of 1886.—An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Sales of Reversions.
- No. 6 of 1886.—An Ordinance to regulate the printing of Newspapers and Books and the keeping of Printing Presses within the Colony.
- No. 7 of 1886.—An Ordinance to repeal the Usury Laws and to fix a legal rate of interest.
- No. 8 of 1886.—An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Trade Marks.
- No. 9 of 1886.—An Ordinance to regulate Religious Ceremonies and Festivals.
- No. 10 of 1886.—An Ordinance for the relief of Widows and Children of Intestates where the personal estate is of small value.
- No. 11 of 1886.—An Ordinance to authorise the raising of a Loan not exceeding 200,000*l*.
- No. 12 of 1886.—An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law for preventing Frauds upon Creditors by Secret Bills of Sale.

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- No. 13 of 1886.—An Ordinance to amend the Law as to Sales of Land by Public Auction.
- No. 14 of 1886.—An Ordinance for the Incorporation of the Procurator, in Hong Kong, for the Dominican Missions in the Far East.
- No. 15 of 1886.—An Ordinance for the preservation of the Peace in the Colony.
- No. 16 of 1886.—An Ordinance for regulating the Stamp Revenue.
- No. 17 of 1886.—An Ordinance for amending the Opium Ordinances.
- No. 18 of 1886.—An Ordinance to prevent the sale or conveyance on board Ship of any Spirituous or Fermented Liquor, and to prohibit the hovering near or about Ships of any persons in boats for the purpose of selling or taking on board Ship of such liquor.
- No. 19 of 1886.—An Ordinance for the establishment of Reformatory Schools.
- No. 20 of 1886.—An Ordinance for providing Harbour Regulations.
- No. 21 of 1886.—An Ordinance for consolidating the Law respecting the Sale of Liquors.
- No. 22 of 1886.—An Ordinance for continuing the status of the French Mail Steamers.
- No. 23 of 1886.—An Ordinance for securing the status of the German Mail Steamers.
- No. 24 of 1886.—An Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of \$123,798 11 to defray the Charges of the Year 1885.
- No. 25 of 1886.—An Ordinance to apply a sum of \$1,094,914 to the Public Service of the Year 1887.
- No. 26 of 1886.—An Ordinance for enabling the Legislative Council, and any Committee thereof, to compel the attendance of and to administer Oaths to Witnesses.
- No. 27 of 1886.—An Ordinance to enable the Governor to appoint Commissions and to confer certain powers on Commissioners so appointed necessary for conducting Inquiries.
- No. 28 of 1886.—An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Wills.
- No. 29 of 1886.—An Ordinance relating to Bills of Lading.

No 30 of 1886.—An Ordinance to amend the Companies Ordinances 1865 to 1886. HONG KONG.

No. 31 of 1886.—An Ordinance for preserving an authentic record of the Ordinances of the Colony and for other purposes.

10.—COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

Executive Council.—The Hon. E. L. O'Malley, Attorney General, having departed in March, on leave of absence, his *locum tenens*, the Hon. E. J. Ackroyd, succeeded to his seat in the Executive Council.

Legislative Council.—The following appointments were made during the year:—

The Hon. H. G. Thomeett, R.N., *vice* the Hon. F. Stewart, the Registrar General, acting as Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. A. P. MacEwen, *vice* the Hon. T. Jackson, on leave.

The Hon. J. Bell-Irving, *vice* the Hon. W. Keswick, on leave.

The Hon. C. P. Chater, *vice* the Hon. F. D. Sassoon, on leave.

Sanitary Board.—Mr. Stewart, the Registrar General, having acted as Colonial Secretary during the year, his place on the Board was continued to be filled by Mr. Lockhart, the Acting Registrar General.

The following new appointments were made during the year:—

The Hon. A. P. MacEwen, M.L.C.

Patrick Manson, Esq., M.D., LL.D.

N. J. Ede, Esq., J.P.

Dr. Ho Kai, Barrister-at-Law.

Board of Examiners.—There was no change in the constitution of the Board during the year.

Medical Board.—The Hon. J. Bell-Irving and Dr. P. Manson succeeded the Hon. W. Keswick and the Hon. T. Jackson, respectively, as members of the Board.

11.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.

The Hon. W. H. Marsh, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, continued to administer the Government. The following officers also continued in their respective acting appointments:—

The Hon. Frederick Stewart, Registrar General as Acting Colonial Secretary.

J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Esq., Assistant Colonial Secretary, as Acting Registrar General.

Several changes occurred in various Departments consequent upon Officers going on leave of absence.

HONG KONG.

12.—OFFICERS WHO HAVE GIVEN SECURITY FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES.

The validity of the sureties of the various Officers was duly inquired into at the end of every quarter, and found to be satisfactory.

13.—PENSIONS.

The following officers retired on pension during the year :—

A. de Souza, Apothecary, Lock Hospital.

George Orley, inspector of police.

5 Chinese police constables.

1 Indian police constable.

14.—EXPENDITURE OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS.

The amounts paid during the year on account of the Establishments were :—

Payments in Great Britain in sterling money, 23,444*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*

Payments in the Colony in local currency, \$656,988 05.

15.—FOREIGN CONSULS.

No new Consulates were established in the Colony during 1886. Mr. J. J. de Souza reported that he had ceased to be Consul for Venezuela. No fresh appointment has been made.

16.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on the 31st December 1886 was as follows :—

Males - - - - 144,550

Females - - - - 56,440

which is 10,396 more than the estimated population at the end of 1885.

The last census was taken in 1881, the population being then returned as 160,402, of which 115,369 were males, and 45,033 females.

The following is the mean estimated population for the last five years :—

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1882 - - -	119,704	46,729	166,433
1883 - - -	124,768	48,707	173,475
1884 - - -	130,560	50,969	181,529
1885 - - -	137,079	53,515	190,594
1886 - - -	144,550	56,440	200,990

The births and deaths for the last five years were as follows:— HONG KONG.

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Per 1,000 of Mean Population.	
			Births.	Deaths.
1882 - - - -	1,545	4,189	9.28	25.17
1883 - - - -	1,509	4,712	8.70	27.16
1884 - - - -	1,551	4,311	8.54	28.74
1885 - - - -	1,555	5,192	8.16	27.24
1886 - - - -	1,557	5,100	7.74	25.37

17.—ECOLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

There were no changes in these establishments as compared with previous years.

18.—EDUCATION.

The total number of schools subject to supervision by the Government amounted in 1886 to 90, being the same number as in 1885 and 1884.

The total number of scholars subject to Government supervision during the last five years was as follows:—

Years.	Government Schools.	Grant-in-aid.	Total.
1882 - - -	2,114	3,068	5,182
1883 - - -	2,080	3,517	5,597
1884 - - -	1,978	3,907	5,885
1885 - - -	1,808	4,041	5,844
1886 - - -	1,893	3,951	5,844

The total expenditure for the last five years was as follows:—

			\$	c.
1882 - - -	-	-	33,743	29
1883 - - -	-	-	35,412	26
1884 - - -	-	-	36,758	14
1885 - - -	-	-	36,085	27
1886 - - -	-	-	43,085	50

HONG KONG.

19.—EXCHANGES, MONEYS, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Exchange.

The rate of exchange on four months' bills on London fell from 3s. 4½d. per dollar on the 4th January 1886 to 3s. 0½d. on the 4th August. In the month of December following the rate had risen to 3s. 4½d.

Currency.

The law affecting currency has remained unchanged.

Bank Notes.

The bank notes in circulation in Hong Kong during the last five years, as furnished by the managers of the respective banks, were as follows:—

Years.					Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
					\$	\$
1882	-	-	-	-	4,253,367	1,536,666
1883	-	-	-	-	5,099,661	1,779,166
1884	-	-	-	-	4,214,787	1,810,838
1885	-	-	-	-	4,080,071	2,000,838
1886	-	-	-	-	4,368,705	2,138,338

Money Circulation.

The approximate amount of coin put into circulation up to 31st December 1886 was as follows:—

Hong Kong dollars and half dollars struck
at the Hong Kong Mint - - \$1,421,487
Hong Kong silver and copper subsidiary
coins (20, 10, and 5 cent pieces; and 1
cent and mil pieces) - - - \$1,983,881

The importation of copper coin has been discontinued.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in use in the Colony are regulated by Ordinance 8 of 1885.

20.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

There being no Custom House it is not possible to furnish an account of the imports and exports.

21.—SHIPPING.

Hong Kong.

Arrivals exclusive of Junks.

The total arrivals, exclusive of junks, during the year 1886 amounted to 4,251 vessels and 4,571,296 tons, being an excess of 823 vessels and 704,587 tons over the arrivals in 1885.

Junks.

22,971 junks measuring 1,752,868 tons arrived in the Colony in 1886, as against 23,674 junks and 1,797,222 tons in 1885, showing a decrease of 703 junks and 44,354 tons.

Arrivals exclusive of Junks.

The total arrivals, exclusive of junks, for the last five years were :—

Years.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
1882 - - - -	3,437	3,170,848
1883 - - - -	3,399	3,450,428
1884 - - - -	3,390	3,479,637
1885 - - - -	3,428	3,866,709
1886 - - - -	4,251	4,571,296

Junks arrived.

The total arrivals of junks for the last five years were :—

Years.	Number of Junks.	Tons.
1882 - - - -	25,231	1,805,390
1883 - - - -	24,268	1,851,239
1884 - - - -	23,473	1,687,594
1885 - - - -	23,674	1,797,222
1886 - - - -	22,971	1,752,868

HONG KONG.

Immigration and Emigration.

The following will show the number of Chinese who arrived in and the number who departed from the Colony during the last five years:—

Years.					Arrived.	Departed.
1882	-	-	-	-	61,905	78,864
1883	-	-	-	-	74,722	57,438
1884	-	-	-	-	73,767	51,247
1885	-	-	-	-	80,773	57,517
1886	-	-	-	-	88,704	64,522

22.—AGRICULTURE.

The lands of the Colony being limited and not favourable for agricultural purposes there is no inducement for this industry here. The produce is quite nominal.

23.—MANUFACTURES, &c.

Manufactories.

During the year the glass works and the steam laundry stopped working.

Steam Launches.

The total number of steam launches built in the Colony in 1886 was 26 with a total tonnage of 1,659, as against 87 with a total of 4,106 in 1885.

24.—GRANTS OF LAND.

The sales of land on lease during the last five years were:—

Years.					Total No. of Sales.	Total No. of Acres sold.
1882	-	-	-	-	34	A. R. P. 41 3 5½
1883	-	-	-	-	30	60 1 26½
1884	-	-	-	-	76	25 3 8½
1885	-	-	-	-	145	28 0 14½
1886	-	-	-	-	88	82 2 21½

25.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

HONG KONG.

On the 1st January 1886 there were 573 prisoners in Victoria Gaol; 4,600 were admitted during the year, and 4,541 discharged; the total number of prisoners on the 31st of December 1886 was 632, of whom 49 were Europeans.

The daily average of prisoners was 674, as against 530 in the previous year.

The number of prisoners admitted into gaol during the last five years was as follows :—

Years.	No. of Prisoners.			Total.	Daily Average Number in Prison.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.		
1882 - -	3,264	103	131	3,498	622·00
1883 - -	3,800	137	149	3,486	542·50
1884 - -	3,670	168	185	4,023	552·00
1885 - -	3,327	147	136	3,610	530·00
1886 - -	4,278	173	149	4,600	674·00

26.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Supreme Court.

The following is a return of cases tried at the Supreme Court during the last five years :—

Years.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Charges abandoned.		Postponed.	
					Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.
1883 - -	124	137	124	38	15	21	1	3
1883 - -	91	126	70	26	14	28*	2	2
1884 - -	68	101	65	20	8	16	—	—
1885 - -	91	147	103	22	16	22	—	—
1886 - -	75	107	59	20	16	27†	1	1
Total -	449	668	421	126	69	114	4	6
Average of 5 years -	89·8	133·6	84·2	25·2	13·8	22·8	1	1½
Average of 5 years ending 1881 -	126·4	182·4	132·4	43·4	6·4	7·4	—	—

* One committed suicide.

† One recognisance estreated.

HONG KONG.

Police Magistrate's Court.

The cases before the police magistrates during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Total No. of Cases.	Total No. of Prisoners.	Cases how disposed of.						
			Convicted and Punished.	Discharged.	Committed for Trial.	Committed pending Orders.	Ordered to find Security.	Punished for False Testimony.	Undecided.
1882 - -	7,587	9,402	6,443	2,177	276	39	363	17	87
1883 - -	10,663	12,104	8,797	2,742	129	38	216	6	171
1884 - -	14,065	15,935	12,836	2,562	108	38	281	8	107
1885 - -	10,281	11,901	8,800	2,446	161	14	466	6	13
1886 - -	14,611	16,647	12,923	2,368	159	5	990	36	168
Total -	57,177	65,989	49,799	12,380	828	134	2,385	72	551
Average of 5 years	11,435·4	13,197·8	9,960·8	2,464·0	165·6	26·8	467·0	14·4	110·2
Average of 5 years ending 1881 -	8,138·6	9,735·0	7,069·4	2,121·8	207·4	13·0	255·4	26·6	33·4

Marine Magistrate's Court.

The cases before the Marine Magistrate's Court during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Number of Cases.	Number of Defendants.	Defendants how disposed of.							
			Imprisoned.	Fined.	Forfeiture of Pay.	Reprimanded.	Sent back to duty.	To be discharged from Ship.	Dismissed.	Committed for Trial.
1882 - - -	76	189	86	28	9	7	30	1	47	2
1883 - - -	37	68	13	11	5	1	15	1	12	—
1884 - - -	78	160	85	32	11	1	9	3	28	—
1885 - - -	111	231	136	47	14	2	1	—	31	—
1886 - - -	58	87	43	24	6	2	1	—	11	—
Total -	360	734	333	142	45	13	65	5	119	2
Average of last 5 years -	72·0	146·8	66·6	28·4	9·0	2·6	13·0	1·0	23·8	—
Average of last 5 years ending 1881 -	141·8	250·0	95·0	58·4	28·6	9·2	14·2	2·0	27·4	—

Police.

Hong Kong.

The cases brought under the notice of the police during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Serious Offences.			Minor Offences.		
	Number of Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Number of Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.
1882 - - -	2,506	1,406	561	3,723	3,002	846
1883 - - -	2,423	1,178	486	5,365	4,014	1,094
1884 - - -	2,653	1,297	500	7,551	4,743	1,103
1885 - - -	2,406	1,298	561	4,309	3,707	757
1886 - - -	2,500	1,339	472	6,336	6,457	673
Total -	12,637	6,567	2,639	27,189	22,523	4,401
Average of 5 years -	2,527·4	1,313·4	527·8	5,437·8	4,504·6	880·2
Average of 5 years ending 1881 -	2,270·8	1,345·8	440·6	4,431·8	3,797·4	790·4

27.—HOSPITALS, &c.

Civil Hospital.

The admissions to the Government Civil Hospital during the year were as follows as compared with 1885:—

	1885.	1886.
Police - - - -	495	602
Board of Trade - - -	100	132
Private paying patients - -	283	381
Government servants - -	124	144
Police cases - - -	238	142
Destitutes - - - -	270	222
	1,510	1,623

HONG KONG. The total admissions to the hospital and deaths during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.					Admissions.	Deaths.
1882	-	-	-	-	1,414	68
1883	-	-	-	-	1,436	70
1884	-	-	-	-	1,308	50
1885	-	-	-	-	1,510	76
1886	-	-	-	-	1,623	79

The admissions from the police force and the number of deaths for the past five years were as follows:—

Years.					Admissions.	Deaths.
1882	-	-	-	-	549	8
1883	-	-	-	-	599	10
1884	-	-	-	-	486	7
1885	-	-	-	-	495	9*
1886	-	-	-	-	602	11†

The admissions of Europeans were, in 1885, 124, as compared with 188 in 1886; the Chinese were 163 in 1885, as compared with 221 in 1886; and the Indians were 208 in 1885, as compared with 243 in 1886.

Military Hospital.

The admissions from among the troops during the past five years were as follows:—

Years.					Admissions.	Deaths.
1882	-	-	-	-	1,019	9
1883	-	-	-	-	1,105	10
1884	-	-	-	-	1,097	12
1885	-	-	-	-	1,090	24‡
1886	-	-	-	-	1,607	9

* Only 5 of these died in hospital, 1 died at his own residence, and 3 died whilst on leave.

† In hospital.

‡ 12 died of cholera.

*Small-pox Hospital.*HONG KONG.

The admissions during the past five years were as follows:—

Years.					Admissions.
—					—
1882	-	-	-	-	- Nil
1883	-	-	-	-	- 12
1884	-	-	-	-	- 7
1885	-	-	-	-	- 14
1886	-	-	-	-	- 11

Inquests.

The inquests held during past five years were as follows:—

Years.					Admissions.
—					—
1882	-	-	-	-	- 113
1883	-	-	-	-	- 101
1884	-	-	-	-	- 82
1885	-	-	-	-	- 100
1886	-	-	-	-	- 120

28.—CHARITABLE AND LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

The Alice Memorial Hospital was formed during the past year.

29.—RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

No fresh institution was formed.

An Ordinance (14 of 1886) was passed during the year for the Incorporation of the Procurator in Hongkong for the Dominican Missions in the Far East, and properties belonging to the Dominican Missions were transferred to and vested in the said Corporation.

ARATHOON SETH,
Chief Clerk

Hong Kong, 22nd April 1887.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 15:

Governor Sir A. H. GORDON to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR, Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
August 24, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Colony for 1886, together with the usual Report thereon by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) A. GORDON.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF CEYLON FOR 1886.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue for 1886 amounted to Rs. 12,682,548 78 and the expenditure to Rs. 13,013,067 18. There was, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of Rs. 330,518 39.

The revenue showed an increase as compared with that of 1885 of Rs. 31,685 08, but the total actual revenue was Rs. 425,351 21 below that estimated.

The following are the principal items under which the actual fell short of the estimated revenue. "Arrears of Revenue," Rs. 48,947 75; "Toll Rents" and "Arrack Rent" of Rs. 12,780 72 and Rs. 56,922 29 respectively; "Timber," Rs. 23,292 81; "Cost of Police within Municipalities," Rs. 18,116 48; "Payments on account of deficiency of Troops," Rs. 146,833 33.

The expenditure on the Votes of the year amounted to Rs. 13,013,067 18; Rs. 217,722, unexpended balances of 1885, were carried forward for expenditure in 1886, of which Rs. 44,112 were again carried forward for expenditure during 1887, together with Rs. 306,134, unexpended balances of 1886.

Revenue.

2 The decrease of Rs. 48,947 75, under the head "Arrears of Revenue," is due to smaller outstandings in consequence of a more thorough collection during the preceding year, and is therefore to be regarded with satisfaction.

The recoveries under "Customs" show a net increase of Rs. 46,234 69, due to a larger importation of cotton goods, haberdashery, kerosine oil, spirits and cordials, &c., and to considerable increase in the export duty on plumbago, of which the quantity exported in 1886 was largely in excess of 1885; the quantity of grain imported into the Island was smaller in 1886 than in 1885, but the decrease in amount of import duty on grain was more than counterbalanced by the increase on other articles as above mentioned. There is a slight decrease under "Port Clearances," which is due to the smaller number of vessels which called at the outports in consequence of the decrease in grain imports. The number of vessels that visited the Colombo Harbour during the year, and their tonnage, was in excess of that in the previous year, and in consequence there was an increase under "Boats and Moorings," "Pilotage," and "Colombo Harbour Dues."

There was an increase under "Land Sales" of Rs. 6,563 28, due to extensive sales of land in the Helani Valley district for tea planting. In other parts of the Island there was a decrease under this head.

The increase under "Grain," Rs. 45,604 53, may, as in the case of the increase in 1885 over 1884, in great measure be ascribed to extended cultivation, the result of the increased attention which has been given of late to the repair and improvement of irrigation works, to good crops, and to the more regular recovery of the tax under the commutation system.

The decrease under "Rents exclusive of Land" is due to smaller return from toll rents, owing to the continued falling off in the traffic on the main road in the coffee districts; there are, however, signs of improvement under this head, and the tolls for 1887 have realised better prices than those of 1886.

The decrease under "Arrack, Rum, and Toddy" of Rs. 56,922 29 is due in the main to the same causes as those that affected this source of revenue in 1885; but the sales for the year 1887-8 show a considerable increase, which may be ascribed chiefly to a revival of prosperity amongst the classes who consume these spirits, consequent, especially on the extension and success of tea cultivation.

Although there is an apparent decrease under "Stamps" in reality there was an increase, as whereas the net decrease was only Rs. 3,145, it should be noted that in 1885 a sum of Rs. 6,048, the value of defalcations in 1879, was included in the revenue for that year.

There was a small increase under "Taxes," Rs. 1,254 56, due to prompt recovery.

There was an increase under the head "Fines and Forfeitures" of Rs. 7,782 96.

Under "Government Vessels" there was an increase of Rs. 14,985 97, due to the fact that the Colonial steamer worked uninterruptedly during the year.

Under "Sales of Government Property" there was an increase of Rs. 2,350 38, due to an increase in the sale of salt. Under

CAYLON.

the head "Timber" there was a decrease, owing to the smaller supply of timber offered for sale.

"Reimbursements" show a net decrease of Rs. 56,593 24. The falling off in "Survey Fees," Rs. 16,584 17, is due to sales of small allotments of Crown land having been fewer than in 1885.

"Value of Prison Labour" shows a decrease of Rs. 5,812 89, which is due to the withdrawal of prisoners from the Breakwater Works on their completion.

The decrease of Rs. 18,116 48, under cost of police within municipalities, is due to the fact that the receipts in 1885 under this head included arrears of 1884 collected in that year.

"Medical Aid Fund" shows a falling off of Rs. 4,463 62, due to smaller receipts on account of export, chiefly coffee. The working of the Medical Aid Ordinance continues to entail a heavy charge on the general revenue.

Under "Miscellaneous Receipts" there is a net increase of Rs. 16,969 25, although under "Payments on account of Deficiency of Troops" there is a decrease of Rs. 146,833 33, no claim for a refund under this head having arisen during the year.

The increase under "Interest on Public Funds invested," Rs. 33,232 68, is due to the investment of a further portion of the currency reserve.

The increase under "Pearl Fishery," Rs. 3,531 04, is due to the high prices realised for the right of fishing in Tangleam Bay.

"Railway Receipts."—The increase of Rs. 74,667 19 is mainly due to the opening of the extension to Nanu-Oya in May 1885, and to the development of tea cultivation.

Expenditure.

3. On establishments a net increase is shown of Rs. 75,702 37, of which Rs. 15,215 43 is under the head "Secretariat"; this is due to increased amount required to pay cadets, additional expenditure on account of telegrams, and the cost of new furniture; and also to the fact that in 1885 considerable savings were effected on the salaries of the Colonial Secretary and the Second Assistant Colonial Secretary; further, a sum of Rs. 3,686, drawn on account of salaries, "Printing Branch," was refunded and brought to account in the year as a "Miscellaneous" receipt; the net increase of expenditure on account of the Secretariat was Rs. 7,880.

Of the increase of Rs. 3,132 68, under Provincial Agencies, Western Province, Rs. 1,632 is due to savings that were effected in salaries of the staff in 1885.

The increase under "Provincial Agency," Uva, is covered by a decrease approximating the same amount under Central Province. In 1886 the Uva Province was separated from the Central Province and created a distinct province.

There was an increase of Rs. 9,705 39 under Public Works Department, which is accounted for by the appointment of a Provincial Engineer for the North Central Province, and by a

further increase in the staff of officers; there was also an increase in the staff of surveyors, which accounts for the increase of Rs. 7,788 51 under Survey Department.

The increase of Rs. 4,231 74, under "Postal Telegraph Department," is due to the appointment of four additional telegraph masters and an increment of pay, in accordance with agreement, to the superintendent.

Under "Railway Department" an increase of Rs. 20,246 49 is shown, which is due mainly to the additional staff taken on on the completion of the extension of the railway to Nann Oya in May 1885.

In former years the expenditure under "Grain Commission" was brought to account under "Miscellaneous Services," it was properly charged this year under "Establishment," hence the increase of Rs. 14,400 under this head.

"Services exclusive of Establishments" show an increase of Rs. 472,019 64 and a decrease of Rs. 145,862 11, or a net increase of Rs. 326,157 53.

"Pensions and Retired Allowances," increase Rs. 43,956, due to payment of new pensions and to depreciation of value of silver.

"Revenue Services," decrease Rs. 21,162 02, mainly due to a smaller expenditure on account of manufacture of salt.

"Education," increase Rs. 11,432 87, due to increased number of grant schools and increase of earnings as grants.

"Hospitals and Sanitation." The increase was Rs. 14,036 31. Prevalence of epidemic diseases in some parts of the Island and the establishment of four additional out-door dispensaries account for this increase.

"Police Services," increase Rs. 12,333 74, due mainly to cost of uniform.

"Roads, Streets, and Bridges," increase Rs. 109,561 79, due to larger expenditure on new roads and bridges.

"Miscellaneous Services," decrease Rs. 71,062 01, is accounted for by the fact that in 1885 certain expenditure was incurred, such as cost and charges on account of currency notes, that did not occur in 1886.

"Interest," increase Rs. 134,505 09, owing to depreciation in value of silver, the interest being paid in England in sterling.

"Government Vessels."—No repairs were required in 1886, hence the decrease of Rs. 33,277 89.

"Railway Services."—The increase of Rs. 76,008 42 is mainly due to depreciation for value of silver; the interest on railway loans is brought to account under this head.

Assets and Liabilities.

4. The assets of the Government on the 1st January 1887 amounted to Rs. 12,654,293 91 and the liabilities to Rs. 12,487,853 59, or an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 166,440 32.

CEYLON.

Public Debt.

5. The debt of the Colony on the 1st January 1887 was 2,262,779*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, made up as follows:—

669,379*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* balance due on the several loans contracted for the improvement of the Colombo Harbour.

272,300*l.*, balance due of the loan for the construction of the railway between Kandy and Matale.

990,100*l.*, the balance due of the loan for the construction of the railway between Nawalapitiya and Nanu Oya.

331,000*l.*, amount due on account of Colombo Waterworks.

Loans made by, and payable to, the Government of Ceylon.

6. Rs. 244,165 72 due to Government by municipality of Kandy on account of original loan of Rs. 250,000, made to the corporation on account of the waterworks of that town.

Rs. 9,900, out of a loan of Rs. 10,000 as due by the Industrial School of Kandy.

Imports and Exports.

7. The trade for the year was valued at Rs. 82,755,586 29.

	Rs.			
Imports - - -	-	-	-	47,855,787 63
Exports - - -	-	-	-	34,899,798 66

Or, exclusive of specie:—

Imports - - -	-	-	-	42,795,187 13
Exports - - -	-	-	-	33,639,198 66

Total	-	76,434,385 79
-------	---	---------------

A comparison with 1885 shows, excluding specie, an increase of Rs. 2,005,868 17 in the value of goods imported, and a decrease of Rs. 204,926 69 in the value of exports. The decrease in exports is due mainly to the falling off in the quantity of coffee exported during the year, the decrease in quantity being—

125,875 cwts.	Plantation,
10,565 „	Native,
1,491 „	Liberian,

valued at Rs. 4,189,185, Rs. 163,643, and Rs. 18,118 respectively; as a partial set off against this, there was an increase of 5,590 cwts. of cacao, valued at Rs. 234,780, and an increase of 3,477,167 lbs. of tea, valued, at Rs. 2,260,158. In addition there was a considerable increase in the quantity of plumbago exported, and for the first time in the history of the Colony during 1886 malt liquor of Ceylon manufacture was exported to the amount of 115,153 gallons, most of which went to Burmah for the use of the troops.

Imports

8. Cotton manufactures, twist, and thread increased in value to Rs. 4,572,917, yielding in duty Rs. 224,296, an increase of Rs. 48,945 on the amount collected in 1885, but short of that realised in 1884 by Rs. 33,920.

There was a decrease of Rs. 140,846 in the quantity of fish dried and salted as compared with 1885; to some extent this may be due to the establishment of fish curing yards by Government and the encouragement afforded to the curing of fish by the issue of salt for use within the yards at a reduced rate.

Food articles generally show a falling off, and there is a decrease in the quantity of rice and paddy imported, showing a decrease in the revenue therefrom of Rs. 111,548 and in value of Rs. 864,540.

The following shows the import of rice for home consumption for the last three years:—

					Tons.
1884 -	-	-	-	-	5,430,597
1885 -	-	-	-	-	5,780,675
1886 -	-	-	-	-	5,492,166

An increase in value of machinery of Rs. 100,849 is shown; and there was also an increase in value of metals and metalware, poonac and spirits, and wines of all kinds, but a decrease in value of live stock, manure, and opium.

The value of specie imported was in excess of 1885 by Rs. 717,581.

Exports.

9. Of the total value of exports, less specie, Rs. 33,639,198 66, the value of Ceylon produce, amounted to Rs. 32,257,917 88, which is Rs. 507,430 87 below the value of Ceylon produce exported in 1885.

Specie also shows a decrease of Rs. 677,679 87 as compared with 1885. The chief cause of the falling off in the value of exports is the decline of coffee, the article that has for many years past chiefly contributed to maintain the value; but it may be noted that while the falling off in the quantity exported during the year was unprecedented, better prices were realised. The decrease in export of coffee in 1886 as compared with 1885 was 137,931 cwts. (plantation, native, and Liberian), and this decrease is to be attributed in a large measure to many coffee estates having been changed into tea estates. It is especially satisfactory to note that while there is so deplorable a falling off in coffee, other products, tea especially, of which the quantity exported in 1886 was nearly double the quantity exported in 1885, show an increase in quantity.

The export of tea has made a rapid advance from 4,372,721 lbs. in 1885 to 7,849,888 lbs. in 1886. Unfortunately there was almost as rapid a fall in the price, which receded from 65 cents in 1885 to 45 cents in 1886.

Of cacao there was an increase of 5,590 cwts., valued at Rs. 249,704, and cinchona shows an increase of 939,492 lbs.,

Ceylon.

valued at Rs. 396,371 ; the rates obtained for this product remained about the same as in 1885.

In areca nuts there was an increase of 9,952 cwts., of the value of Rs. 58,376, and there was an increase in the export of each of the following :—

Cardamons, of 54,805 lbs., of the value of Rs. 88.
 Cinnamon, 219,781 lbs., valued at Rs. 109,891.
 Cocoanuts, 2,960,657 (No.), valued at Rs. 143,679.
 Hides and skins, valued at Rs. 21,300.
 Coconut oil, 12,128 cwts., valued at Rs. 150,920.
 Citronella, 1,115,665 ozs., valued at Rs. 127,996.
 Essential oils, 97,538 oza., valued at Rs. 21,090.
 Plumbago, 45,361 cwts., valued at Rs. 453,604.
 Poonac, 34,903 cwts., valued at Rs. 95,110.
 Timber, ebony, 21,463 cwts., valued at Rs. 76,592.

While there was a decrease in the export of—

Coir fibre of 1,148 cwts., valued at Rs. 8,613.
 Coir rope of 1,348 cwts., valued at Rs. 16,861.
 Coir yarn of 5,404 cwts., valued at Rs. 32,423.
 Horns, 823 cwts., valued at Rs. 24,211.
 Salt, 2,900 cwts., valued at Rs. 1,069.
 Arrack, 73,835 gallons, valued at Rs. 166,188.
 Soap, 2,417 cwts., valued at Rs. 23,832.
 Timber, sapan, 1,967 cwts., valued at Rs. 11,980.
 Timber, ironwood, 854 logs, valued at Rs. 12,009.
 Tobacco, 10,087 cwts., valued at Rs. 230,027.

There was also a decrease in the quantity of copperah exported ; but owing to increased value of the article the value of the export in 1886 exceeds that of 1885.

Shipping.

10. As compared with 1885 there is an increase in number of ships :—

Inwards, of 100.

Outwards, of 194.

And in tonnage :—

Inwards, of 129,173 tons.

Outwards, of 233,116 tons.

This shows in a satisfactory manner that the value of the port of Colombo is being increasingly recognised.

The number of vessels and their total tonnage inwards and outwards was as follows :—

No. of Vessels.		Tonnage.	
Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.
8,088	3,153	1,952,290	1,971,191

Public Works.

CANTON.

11. The expenditure of the Public Works Department, including Rs. 16,469 71 contributed for grant-in-aid roads under the Ordinance, Rs. 18,870 81 from appropriation from Loan Board Funds by special Ordinance, Rs. 207,417 65 from Savings Bank Loan under Ordinance 24 of 1885, and Rs. 4,074 13 from Colombo Waterworks Funds, amounted to Rs. 2,600,622 61, or Rs. 411,344 94 in excess of the expenditure of the preceding year.

The cost of the establishment, included salaries fixed and provisional, office contingencies and allowances, but exclusive of travelling allowances and other general charges, the details of which are given under "Departmental Charges" and "Miscellaneous," was Rs. 283,819 01, or about 10·92 per cent. of the total expenditure of the department. If to this be added the amount of travelling allowances drawn during the year, viz., Rs. 59,765 99, the total cost of the establishment is shown as Rs. 343,585, or about 13·22 per cent. of the total expenditure.

This is satisfactory as compared with 1885, when the per-centage of cost of establishment, including travelling, was 15·14 per cent. of the aggregate expenditure, especially when it is remembered that the establishment of officers was increased during 1886 by one provincial engineer for the North-Central Province at Rs. 6,000 and three district engineers at Rs. 3,000 per annum; at the same time it should be noted that during the first half of the year the establishment of officers was below its strength, and the saving thereby effected, together, with the larger amount expended by the Department during the year as compared with 1885 explain the decrease in the per-centage of cost of establishment on total expenditure.

There was a slight increase in the mileage of principal roads as compared with 1885.

				Rs.	c.
Mileage, 1886	-	-	-	2,899	92
Mileage, 1885	-	-	-	2,869	67

but the average cost of maintenance per mile was Rs. 264 11 only in 1886 against Rs. 296 43 in 1885 and Rs. 376 86 in 1884.

The expenditure on new works and buildings was very slightly in excess of that for 1885, while there was a considerable decrease under the head "Alterations and Additions to Buildings."

The expenditure on "new roads and additions to roads" was increased by Rs. 138,378.

The principal items of expenditure under this head were —

Rs. 37,493 for completion of Trincomalie Anuradhapura road.

Rs. 46,923 for construction of three miles of the Wattagoda Punduloya road.

Rs. 16,325, extension of Bulatkohopitiya road.

Rs. 15,250, bridle road middle camp to Haputale.

CEYLON.

Rs. 15,606, improvement to Yakwewa Pesalai road.
 Rs. 13,670, metalling Badulla Batticaloa road.
 Rs. 15,716, metalling North Central Road.

New bridges shows an increase of Rs. 93,827; the principal item under this head is Rs. 37,211 for construction of bridge at Sitawake in the Ruanwella district of the Western Province. There is a large increase (Rs. 118,268) shown under irrigation works, the expenditure for 1886 having been Rs. 525,725 07 as against Rs. 306,687 in 1885 and Rs. 188,418 44 in 1884.

The chief items of expenditure under this head are the works at Rambawihare and on the Walaweganga in the Southern Province, Rs. 12,000 39 and Rs. 40,000 respectively.

The works connected with the Kalawewe scheme, viz. —

	Rs.	c.
Restoration of the Yoda Ela	- 50,611	23
Construction of the Kalawewe sluices	- - - -	86,256 71
Spillwall Kaluoya at Kalawewe	- 51,958	14
Rebuilding of sluice at Balalawewe	- 30,608	92

And in the Central Province the construction of an irrigation dam across the Ambanganga, Rs. 39,995 02.

Rs. 43,101 73 was expended in constructing sluices for village tanks in the various provinces.

The furniture of the Queen's houses has been kept in good condition, and the buildings themselves are in a fair state of repair.

Breakwater.

12. The work of finishing off the berm of the breakwater was continued but not completed. The expenditure for the year was Rs. 207,663, making the gross expenditure on the work, to the 31st December 1886, Rs. 8,548,877.

Survey Department.

13. The operations of this department compare favourably with those of the two preceding years. The average number of acres surveyed by an officer under the rank of chief surveyor was 1,582, against 1,275 in 1885, 1,392 in 1884, and 1,116 in 1883, while the acreage surveyed on applications showed an increase of 15,298 on the extent for the preceding year.

The number of lots alienated from the Crown, including those sold under Sir Henry Ward's Minute, was 4,172, consisting of 22,290 acres, of which 164 lots, containing 6,826 acres, were purchased by Europeans at an average rate of Rs. 23 74 per acre,

or Rs. 9 59 higher than in 1885, and 3,451 lots, containing 13,310 acres, by natives at Rs. 17 02 per acre, about the same price that prevailed last year.

The number of applications to purchase Crown land which awaited attention on the first day of the year, was 5,853, and at the close of the year 4,583.

The minor triangulation of the Island and the great triangulation of its northern part were continued, and important topographical and revenue surveys and initial levelling in connexion with irrigation schemes, projected or in process of execution, were effected, in addition to much work of a miscellaneous character, such as village and road surveys and surveys of lands to be acquired by the Government.

The gross expenditure of the department amounted to Rs. 375,870, or Rs. 6,390 in excess of that for 1885, an increase caused by the augmentation to the staff which was sanctioned during the year. Deducting Rs. 96,136 expended upon a work of a special nature the net cost of the general working of the department was Rs. 279,734. Against this expenditure a sum of Rs. 53,653 was earned as fees, slightly less than in 1885, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of Rs. 226,081.

The Crown land sold realised Rs. 364,981, against Rs. 327,283 during the preceding year.

Railway.

14. The results of the year's working over the 180½ miles open for traffic in comparison with the results of 1885 were satisfactory, notwithstanding that traffic in the extension to Nanu Oya was seriously hindered by a heavy landslip which took place in August at the 26½ mile, and by a second slip which occurred later in the year at the same spot.

The main results are given below :—

—			Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net Profit.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1885	-	-	2,605,658	1,467,699	1,137,959
1886	-	-	2,707,429	1,451,716	1,255,713

The receipts it will be seen were in excess of those of 1885 by Rs. 101,771; the expenditure was reduced by Rs. 15,983, and the net profit increased by Rs. 117,754.

The per-centage of working expenses to receipts over the whole railway system was again reduced from 55·9 in 1885 to 53·6, and the cost per train mile from 3·14 to 2·53.

CEYLON.

The number of passengers carried, exclusive of season ticket holders, and the amounts received in the year under notice and in 1885, are stated below :—

Classes	1886.		1885.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
First	35,311	Rs. 63,656	39,600	Rs. 63,508	—	Rs. 148	4,289	—
Second	121,538	9,348	118,563	88,286	2,975	7,062	—	—
Third	1,061,000	598,784	1,688,264	609,191	—	—	26,604	10,407
Total	1,818,509	757,788	1,846,427	760,985	2,975	7,210	30,893	10,407

The decrease in the third class is worthy of notice, as the fares for that class were reduced at the commencement of the year. The net decrease in receipts is not, however, unsatisfactory when compared with the decrease, Rs. 51,041, which the figures of 1885 showed on those of 1884.

Legislation.

15. There were 25 Ordinances passed by the Legislature, of which 22 have received Her Majesty's gracious allowance and confirmation. The most important of these were the Ordinances relating to the supply of water to Colombo, and to youthful offenders, and to vaccination. The three Ordinances which have not yet received sanction are an Ordinance to raise a loan for the extension of the railway to Haputalé and to Bentota, an Ordinance to authorise the imposition of an export duty on spirits, and an Ordinance to provide for the registration of Mohamedan marriages.

Public Health.

16. The following statement gives in comparison for 1885 and 1886 the information usually entered under this head :—

	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of deaths registered	81,908	67,041	—	14,867
Death-rate per mille	29.3	23.8	—	5.5
Birth-rate per mille	28.0	27.3	—	.7
Number of patients treated in hospitals and asylums	28,847	25,932	2,085	—
Per-centage of deaths on number of cases treated	12.29	10.47	—	1.83
Death-rate for mixed races	8.04	7.61	—	.43
Death-rate for Malabars	20.29	16.87	—	3.92
Number of cases treated at outdoor dispensaries	78,346	75,469	—	2,877
Contributions of patients	14,036	14,588	492	—
Number of cases treated at outdoor dispensaries in planting districts	33,641	32,531	—	1,110
Number of cases of suicide	93	86	—	7
Number of persons judicially executed	8	20	12	—

It will be observed that there was a large decrease in the number of deaths registered and in death-rates generally, though the number of persons treated in hospitals and asylums increased.

The number of judicial executions was exceptionally large.

The cost of the medical establishment is given below :—

Establishment.	1886.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
<i>Salaries.</i>				
Fixed - - -	84,007 47	82,770 61	1,236 86	—
Provisional - - -	120,216 64	114,954 94	5,261 70	—
Total - - -	204,224 11	197,725 55	6,498 56	—
<i>Allowances</i> - - -	12,360 24	10,954 52	1,405 72	—
<i>Contingencies</i> - - -	7,138 67	6,673 24	465 43	—
<i>Hospital and Sanitation.</i>				
Hospitals, &c. - - -	272,862 15	258,480 20	19,881 95	—
Rent - - -	4,700 00	4,359 49	340 51	—
Transport (Departmental)	18,419 91	19,851 61	—	1,431 70
General - - -	41,641 67	51,491 00	—	9,849 33
Total - - -	337,623 73	329,182 30	19,722 46	11,281 03
Grand Total - - -	561,346 75	544,535 61	28,092 17	11,281 03

There was a small decrease in “transport” and “general expenses”; all other charges, however, rose, the net increase in comparison with the cost of the preceding year being Rs. 16,811.

There was a decrease of Rs. 2,309 in the cost of working the Medical Aid Ordinance and an increase in the amount of that cost defrayed from public funds.

The gross expenditure on medical relief during the year under notice was, therefore, Rs. 596,108, Rs. 29,834 in excess of the expenditure in 1885 and Rs. 79,338 above that in 1884.

Education.

17. The number of schools, Government and grant-in-aid, and the number of scholars who attended them, are given in the following tables :—

CEYLON.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

Schools.	Number of Schools.		Number of Pupils on List.		Average daily Attendance.		Cost of educating each Pupil for the Year.					
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	By Receipts.		Net cost to Government.		Gross Cost.	
							1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
Boys.	2	2	345	334	286	303	Rs. c. 88 85	Rs. c. 41 31	Rs. c. 61 55	Rs. c. 60 83	Rs. c. 100 40	Rs. c. 104 14
	1	1	39	38	15	11	—	—	0 04	—	0 04	—
	23	23	2,179	2,562	1,424	1,506	0 81	0 55	10 51	10 10	11 33	10 65
	300	310	19,513	21,893	11,598	11,991	0 03	—	4 56	4 23	4 48	4 22
	332	342	22,076	24,826	13,335	13,810	0 70	0 62	5 94	5 53	6 05	6 20
Girls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	3	241	227	197	134	0 13	0 10	7 19	6 34	7 37	6 44
	83	80	4,897	4,570	2,472	2,377	—	—	4 19	4 03	4 19	4 05
	85	83	4,548	4,287	2,699	2,511	—	—	4 35	4 17	4 38	4 17
Total.	417	445	26,624	29,683	15,934	16,381	0 53	0 52	5 67	5 35	6 26	5 67

CEYLON.

GRANT-IN-AID SCHOOLS ON THE DIRECTOR'S LIST.

Schools.	Number of Schools.		Number of Pupils on List.		Average Attendance.		Government Expenditure.		Gross Cost to Government of educating each Pupil.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
English, High	44	45	5,185	4,960	3,323	3,225	Rs. c. 26,542 00	Rs. c. 25,078 00	Rs. c. 5 11	Rs. c. 5 05
Do. Elementary	53	46	2,960	2,884	2,022	2,188	10,230 90	11,854 76	3 45	4 11
Anglo-vernacular	59	72	3,968	5,211	2,453	3,209	24,922 50	28,775 50	6 20	5 52
Vernacular	710	743	46,805	46,809	27,232	20,963	105,634 00	115,325 05	2 25	2 46
Total	866	904	58,918	59,853	35,080	35,466	166,979 40	181,033 60	2 83	3 02
NUMBER OF SCHOLARS.										
					1885.	1886.	Increase.		Decrease.	
Scholars in Government Schools	-	-	-	-	26,624	29,633	3,029		-	
Scholars in Grant-in-Aid Schools examined	-	-	-	-	57,370	57,965	635		-	
Scholars in Grant Schools not examined	-	-	-	-	1,598	1,908	310		-	
Scholars in Unaided Schools	-	-	-	-	30,063	22,956	2,894		-	
Total Scholars in Ceylon	-	-	-	-	105,604	112,472	6,868		-	

CRYLON.

CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS.

	Number of Schools.		Number of Boys under nominal instruction.		Number of Girls under nominal instruction.		Total Number of Boys and Girls under nominal instruction.		Average Attendance.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
GOVERNMENT.										
English	3	3	384	372	—	—	384	372	313	314
Anglo-vernacular	26	26	2,100	2,572	239	247	2,420	2,819	1,551	1,639
Vernacular	388	390	19,562	22,115	4,258	4,347	23,820	26,462	14,070	14,368
GRANT-IN-AID OF THE LIST AND EXAMINED.										
English	88	88	6,660	6,380	1,111	1,424	7,771	7,744	5,601	5,413
Anglo-vernacular	55	61	3,148	3,906	772	948	3,920	4,749	2,507	2,863
Vernacular	676	700	31,508	31,672	13,721	13,750	45,229	45,422	28,065	28,045
Total	1,236	1,274	69,852	69,957	20,092	20,761	83,044	87,208	50,707	50,782

CEYLON.

The expenditure upon the Department of Public Instruction amounted to Rs. 439,697, Rs. 13,397 above the expenditure during 1885. This result was brought about by an increase in the number and efficiency of Government and grant-in-aid schools under "middle and primary instruction," and by increased expense, due partly to loss in exchange, in respect of scholarships and prizes.

Criminal Statistics.

18. The returns show that, although the number of offences reported and of persons arrested or summoned to appear before the courts increased, the number of convictions in both the superior and inferior courts diminished, while the number of acquittals increased.

There was a remarkable increase in the number of convictions for cattle stealing before the inferior courts, and as remarkable a decrease in convictions for the same offence before the superior courts.

The number of indictments for murder rose from 67 in 1885 to 111 in 1886, and the convictions on such indictments from 24 to 65.

Prisons.

19. The prisons' statistics in comparison with those of 1885 are satisfactory in respect of the number of persons committed to prison, especially so as regards the defaulters committed under the provisions of the Road Ordinances, but, excepting that the net cost of each prisoner was slightly reduced in 1886, the figures in all other respects compare unfavourably with those of 1885.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 23rd August 1887.

CECIL C. SMITH,
Colonial Secretary.

LABUAN.LABUAN.

No. 16.

Administrator P. LEYS to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Labuan,

July 19, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward by this mail the Labuan Blue Book for the past year, together with a report thereon by Mr. Hamilton, the Colonial Treasurer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. LEYS,
Administrator

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

LABUAN.

Revenue.

1. The revenue for the year amounted to \$17,591, being a decrease on the estimated revenue of \$1,962. The deficit was entirely due to the amounts estimated under head of miscellaneous receipts not being realised, viz., profit on sale of copper coin \$3,400, and interest on money in the hands of the Singapore agents \$500, the actual amount received as profit on the sale of copper coin being \$508 and the balance in the hands of the Singapore agents being too small to admit of them allowing any interest whatever. It will be seen, therefore, that when allowance is made for the loss under this head (\$2,392) the amount estimated for under other heads of service was more than fully realised.

Expenditure.

2. The expenditure amounted to \$19,945, exceeding the estimated expenditure by \$394. The excess occurred mainly under head of miscellaneous services, the sum of \$1,402 having been written off under that head as loss by exchange of remittances to the Crown Agents, being \$802 in excess of the estimated amount. The great fall in the value of the dollar partly accounts for this, and three officers out of the small establishment being on leave the greater part of the year caused larger remittances than usual to be made to England to meet their salaries.

Assets.

3. The balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st December 1886 amounted to \$7,982. The Colony is free from debts of every description.

Public Works.

4. No new works were executed during the year, and beyond general repairs to the Government buildings nothing was done calling for any remarks. The Settlement roads only were kept in repair.

Legislation.

5. Five Ordinances were passed in 1886. Of these, Ordinance No. 1 was passed for the purpose of imposing a water rate within certain parts of the Colony, and this measure was further amended by Ordinance No. 3. Neither of these Ordinances have, however, been yet enforced owing to the quality of the water not being good enough to allow of the Government granting authority to the water company to levy the rate.

Ordinance No. 4 was enacted to make provision for the registration of imports and exports; this Ordinance did not come into operation during the year.

Establishment.

6. Mr. Wilson, the apothecary, and Mr. Boyd, the chief constable, proceeded to England on one year's leave of absence in February. Mr. A. K. Leys took up the duties of private secretary, acting auditor, and acting police magistrate on the 1st April and resigned in September. Mr. Holkar, the gaoler, returned from leave in June.

Pensions.

LABUAN.

7. By the death of Dr. J. G. Treacher, formerly Colonial surgeon, who died in May, the pension list has been relieved of the sum of 242*l.* annually. The deceased officer entered the service of the Colony as far back as 1848, and had been in receipt of a pension since 1871.

Shipping.

8. The total number of vessels, exclusive of men-of-war, entered during the year amounted to 107, being an increase of 18 on the year 1885; of these only one was a sailing vessel. The following shipping returns for the last five years show that as a port of call Labuan is slowly increasing in importance. A small Sarawak steamer, which makes frequent trips to the Borneo coast, is not included in these returns.

Year.	Vessels entered.	Tonnage.
1882 - - - -	82	24,416
1883 - - - -	86	23,408
1884 - - - -	87	23,959
1885 - - - -	89	24,116
1886 - - - -	107	26,139

Admiral Hamilton, the Commander-in Chief on the station, visited the Colony in March in his flag ship "Audacious," accompanied by Her Majesty's ships "Sapphire," "Merlin," and "Vigilant."

Trade.

9. As will be seen by the following table, the value of the imports show a slight falling off when compared with the year 1885; on the other hand, there is a slight increase in the value of exports.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1884 - - - -	£ 407,370	£ 411,535
1885 - - - -	409,598	386,089
1886 - - - -	382,951	403,308

In former years the produce from Palawan was landed at Labuan and exported again to Singapore, thus figuring in the returns as imports and exports, but the cargo now goes on to Singapore in the same steamer, which merely calls at Labuan

LABUAN.

en route. The best test of the trade done during the year may be judged from the following statistics :—

Year.	Gutta. Value Imported.	Sago, Raw. Value Imported.	Sago Flour. Value Imported.	Coals, Muaras. Value Imported.
1884 - -	\$ 82,055	\$ 21,398	\$ 32,379	\$ 31,761
1885 - -	36,181	40,283	28,572	22,331
1886 - -	25,373	51,252	39,464	29,192

— From which it will be seen that the value of sago imported during the year was largely in excess of 1885, and this notwithstanding that the price of sago had fallen. The value of the sago flour exported during the year amounted to \$138,800 as against \$90,624 exported in 1885, being a very large increase indeed.

General.

10. The health of the Colony during the year was good, the daily average in the hospital being 4·8. It is thought that were the hospital situated nearer the town the inhabitants would avail themselves more of its services. The present building being two miles distant from the more populous parts, and no ready means of conveyance, doubtless deters many persons from seeking medical aid who would otherwise do so. The rainfall for the year was 135 inches.

Of crime there was but little, only 16 persons being committed to prison, of which number three were tried in the Superior Court. The average daily number in gaol was 13, of which one was a lunatic, who was confined in the gaol for want of other accommodation.

The prison being very old and far larger than is necessary, the time has probably arrived when it seems advisable to do away with this establishment and erect accommodation for the prisoners in proximity to the police station in the town, placing them under the charge of the police and dispensing with the post of gaoler. Under the present system each prisoner for the year 1886 cost the Government 30*l.*, a very large sum when it is considered that rations, clothing, and other small expenses averaged not quite 6*l.* per head, the remainder being absorbed in salaries; and yet so long as the gaol remains a separate establishment as at present, and situated at a distance of two miles from the police station, it is difficult to see how the necessary supervision of even a few prisoners is to be carried out without a separate staff. The water company completed the laying of the piping during the year and water was brought down to the town of Victoria, but, owing to the absence of any filtering arrangement at the reservoirs, the quality of the water has not proved so good as was anticipated. It is to be hoped that in time these defects may be remedied and that the undertakings may ultimately prove a success both financially and otherwise. The water has been freely used both by the townspeople and the shipping, and apparently with no bad effects.

LABUAN.
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The school was closed for part of the year, the teacher having resigned, and was opened again on the 1st of October, the management having been transferred to the care of the bishop of the diocese, who despatched a teacher from Sarawak. Owing to the smallness of the salary in recent years it has never been possible to procure men as schoolmasters who carry any weight with their pupils, and there has always been a difficulty in keeping boys sufficiently long at the school to give them an education that is of any practical value to them afterwards.

For financial reasons it has never been possible of late years to grapple firmly with the repairs needed by Government house, and a considerable expenditure is required to put this building in proper order. As the Administrator holds also the post of Consul General for Borneo it seems as if part of the repair and upkeep of this establishment might fairly be borne by the Foreign Office. Were the house and outbuildings put in thorough repair the sum of at least 100*l.* annually would be required for the upkeep of house and grounds.

So much of the general work of the Colony having been previously performed by convicts makes it difficult if not impossible now, in their absence and with a small revenue, to keep the Settlement in that state of order in which a British Colony should be at all times. Expenditure also is much required in respect to the harbour buoys, which are worn out. The harbour would be much improved by the erection of permanent beacons in place of the flimsy ones in use at present, which require constant looking after.

In conclusion, it is satisfactory to be able to report that in spite of the financial state of the Colony the condition of the native population, which numbers nearly 6,000, may be described as comfortable; there is no pauperism, only one lunatic, a patient sent from the coast and not previously connected with the Island, and, as I have before stated, there is but little crime.

(Signed) A. S. HAMILTON,
Colonial Treasurer.

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FALKLAND
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No. 17.

Governor T. KERR to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,

March 18, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith two copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1886, with the following report thereon:—

Taxes and Duties.

No additional taxes or duties were imposed in 1886.

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Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1886 was 9,295*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, or 1,300*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* more than the estimated amount, which was 7,995*l.*

The excess under the several heads was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Customs - - - -	918	1	6
Licenses - - - -	35	0	0
Rents, exclusive of land - -	24	6	10
Fines, forfeitures, and fees - -	81	8	3

Under the following heads there were deficiencies in the estimated receipts:—

	£	s.	d.
Land revenue - - - -	14	9	6
Sale of Government property - -	41	10	6
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	21	13	3
Auction duty - - - -	7	1	0
Interest on investments - - -	7	16	4

No aid was received from Imperial funds during the year.

The expenditure in 1886 was 7,950*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, or 424*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* less than the estimated amount, which, inclusive of a supplemental vote of 500*l.* for public works, was 8,375*l.*

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December 1886, inclusive of cash in the Colonial chest (1,208*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*) and in the hands of the Crown Agents (1,158*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*), was 6,511*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

Of this balance 2,000*l.* has been invested on account of land sales and 1,000*l.* on account of surplus funds in Colonial securities, the annual interest on which amounts to 107*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

*There is no Public Debt.**Public Works.*

No new public works were undertaken, but extensive repairs were made to the Government House and offices, including the roofing of the Government Offices and part of the large building known as the barracks with galvanised iron, the painting of the interior of Government House, and the supply of some furniture to replace what had become unserviceable; the painting inside and outside of the Government offices and the court-house; the construction of roads and drains, and the removal of a mass of peat which slipped from the hill behind the town of Stanley and obstructed some of the principal streets.

Legislation.

Nine Ordinances were passed in 1886:—

No. 1.—“Public Health Ordinance.” This Ordinance provides for the appointment of a Board of Health to be the sanitary authority in the Colony, with power to make bye-laws with respect

to the construction of new streets, buildings, drainage and sewerage, the protection of water, and prevention and removal of nuisances.

No. 2.—“An Ordinance to amend the Customs Consolidation Ordinance, 1882.” This Ordinance provides for the due reporting of vessels arriving in Stanley from other parts of the Colony.

No. 3.—“Town Lands Ordinance.” This Ordinance authorises the Governor to sell without auction frontages to owners of adjacent lands in Stanley, or any other town in the Colony, at prices to be fixed by him with the advice of the Executive Council.

No. 4.—“An Ordinance to extend to the Colony a certain Act of Parliament.” This was the Act 41 & 42 Vict. c. 19. entitled an Act to amend the Matrimonial Causes Act. This Ordinance was afterwards repealed, and in its place an Ordinance was enacted (No. 8) “to make better provision for the protection of married women.”

No. 5.—“Naturalization Ordinance.”

No. 6.—“An Ordinance to make further provision for the service of the Colony of the Falkland Islands for the year 1886.” This Ordinance provides for an increased expenditure under the head of Public Works.

No. 7.—“An Ordinance to prevent the introduction of spirituous or fermented liquors on board Her Majesty's ships without the consent of the commander.”

No. 8.—“An Ordinance to make better provision for the protection of married women.” This Ordinance was enacted in the place of No. 4, which it repeals.

No. 9.—“An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony of the Falkland Islands.” This is the Appropriation Ordinance for 1887.

Civil Establishments.

Governor T. Kerr left the Colony for England on leave of absence on the 3rd of March, and returned on the 16th of December. During his absence the government was administered by Lieutenant-Governor A. C. S. Barkly.

Mr. E. P. Brooks, Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, Police Magistrate, Coroner, Collector of Customs, Harbour Master, Shipping Master, Postmaster, Registrar General, Registrar of Courts, and Receiver of Wrecks, obtained leave of absence and left the Colony on the 27th of December; his duties as Colonial Secretary, Police Magistrate, Treasurer, Coroner, Postmaster, Collector of Customs, and Harbour Master being performed by Mr. H. B. L. Jameson, Government Clerk; and those of Shipping Master, Registrar General, Registrar of Courts and Receiver of Wrecks, by Mr. M. Kerr, who also acted as Government Clerk and Clerk to the Councils. Mr. George Hurst was confirmed in his appointment as Chief Constable, and was also appointed to the Office of Inspector of Nuisances, created by the Public Health Act.

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Mr. B. T. Heuston, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, left the Colony on the 30th of November, having been appointed to an Office in the Medical Department of Western Australia.

Pensions.

There is no change under this head. The whole annual charge for pensions is 235*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

Population.

There were 67 births during 1886, of which number 34 were males and 33 were females.

There were 17 marriages.

The deaths registered were 15, of which 13 were males and two were females.

The causes of death were as follows :—

Accidental drowning	-	-	-	2
Inanition	-	-	-	1
Tabes mesenterica	-	-	-	2
Suffocation (perished in the peat slip)	-	-	-	2
Phthisis	-	-	-	3
Consumption	-	-	-	1
Infantile disease	-	-	-	2
Pneumonial typhoid	-	-	-	1
Tubercular meningitis	-	-	-	2
Total	-	-	-	<u>15</u>

The health of the Colony was good. The following report has been sent in by the Colonial Surgeon, which applies only to Stanley and the surrounding district :—

Colonial Surgeon's Report.

“ Stanley, Falkland Islands,
March 22, 1887.

“ Sir,

“ I have the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, on the healthy condition of the settlement for the year 1886.

“ It is indeed most satisfactory to state that the number of cases of preventable disease has been very small, even below the average, which speaks well for this remarkably healthy climate, considering the number of drawbacks that exist (not having a pure water supply, the want of proper drainage, and defective sewerage).

"I have on a former occasion drawn His Excellency's attention to the fact that this climate exercises a prophylactic effect on phthisis, tubercular and other pulmonary diseases, especially of the respiratory organs.

"Bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy, laryngitis, and even infantile diseases, are few in number.

"I have, &c.

"(Signed) SAMUEL HAMILTON,

"The Hon. H. B. L. Jameson, Colonial Surgeon.

"Acting Colonial Secretary"

No medical reports were received from the Darwin or West Falkland Districts, but as no deaths occurred in the West Falkland, and only one (that of a new-born infant) in Darwin, the omission is not important.

It is impossible to state with exactness the number of the population at the end of 1886. The census taken in 1881 placed the total number at 1,553, and the annual returns of the Registrar General since that time indicate 1,728 as the probable number at the end of 1886; but as there have been many arrivals of whom no account has been kept, the actual number may be about 1,800.

From a rough account which I have had taken of the population of Stanley, I find that the number has increased since 1881 from 508 to 725.

Education.

The following report from the Colonial Chaplain, who acts as School Inspector, affords all the information that can be given under this head:—

Education Report, 1886.

"The Government infant and senior schools in Stanley were attended during the year by 81 and 108 children respectively. The average attendance was 57 and 68 respectively.

"There are 309 children under the age of 15 years in Stanley, the above average attendance is therefore small.

"In Darwin there is a small school attended by 21 children.

"With the exception of Stanley and Darwin, the state of education throughout the Islands is deplorable.

"In the Falkland Islands Company's district there are 133 children, of whom only 30 have any educational advantages.

"Throughout the rest of the Islands there are about 150 children, for whose education no provision whatever exists.

"By His Excellency Governor Kerr's permission, a Children's Penny Savings Bank has been conducted in connection with the Government Schools for the last 18 months. On December the 31st, 1886, there was a balance to the credit of the Bank of 434*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

"I most respectfully call His Excellency's attention to—

"*First.*—The need of compulsory attendance on school in Stanley.

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"*Second.*—That some steps might be taken to assist education in the country parts of the Islands.

"*Third.*—The advisability of the Savings Bank being put on a more public and permanent basis.

"(Signed) **LOWTHER E. BRANDON, M.A.,**
Government School Inspector.

"March 3rd, 1887,
Stanley, Falkland Islands."

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports in 1886 was 73,602*l.* In 1885 it was 48,314*l.* and in 1884 it was 67,848*l.*

The value of the exports in 1886 was 108,946*l.* In 1885 it was 97,846*l.* and in 1884 it was 101,338*l.*

The following table represents the relative value of the several articles of export during the six years ending with 1886 :—

	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Wool	70,927	57,655	68,513	74,652	82,118	72,998
Tallow	4,519	10,120	8,735	13,314	3,360	3,640
Sheep skins	3,266	3,893	4,345	5,686	5,125	3,813
Hides	8,206	4,819	2,775	4,242	4,727	1,550
Old metal and junk	—	339	306	196	350	—
Seal skins	968	—	—	191	—	—
Seal oil	—	—	—	125	—	—
Hair, bones, and bone ash	33	20	116	62	93	8
Live sheep	—	—	2,400	2,720	2,078	16,949
Live horses	—	—	—	150	—	—
Frozen mutton	—	—	—	—	—	15,070
Live geese	—	—	—	—	—	18
Total	87,919	76,846	86,992	101,338	97,846	108,946

Shipping.

Twenty-two sailing vessels arrived in the Colony in 1886; the tonnage of the whole was 15,505; the crews numbered 333. Of these arrivals 13 vessels were engaged in the trade of the Colony, and nine put into Stanley to repair damages sustained at sea; of these two were declared unseaworthy. One, the "*Sidney Dacres*," was totally lost, while being towed out of Port William, by the breaking of the towing hawser; the remaining six, after being repaired, proceeded on their voyages. The monthly mail service was regularly performed by the steamships of the *Kosmos* Company, and the "*Selembria*," a large steamship fitted for carrying frozen meat, arrived and took a cargo of 30,283 frozen sheep for London.

Her Majesty's ships "Ruby," "Ready," and "Frolic" visited the Colony during the year; the first-named vessel, commanded by Captain W. R. Kennedy, R.N., senior officer of the station, made two visits.

The yacht "Marchesa," with Earl Dudley and a party, also visited the Islands.

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Criminal Statistics.

There was no conviction in the Supreme Court during the year.

Forty-nine persons were summarily convicted before the police magistrate. Of these 32 were punished by fines, six by imprisonment in lieu of fine, seven by peremptory imprisonment, and four were bound over to keep the peace.

General Remarks.

The continued prosperity of the Colony is proved by the fact that, notwithstanding the ravages of disease among the flocks, occasioned, it is said, by the unusual severity of the two preceding winters, the value of the exports rose to the unprecedented amount of 108,913*l*.

In 1876 the value of the exports was 37,121*l*. The average of the five years ending in 1880 was 61,591*l*., and of the five years ending 1885, 89,710*l*.

In 1886 the first export of frozen mutton was made, the value of which when shipped was 15,670*l*. It is said that the expense attending this enterprise has been so great that the Frozen Meat Company have sustained some loss, and that a new arrangement has been proposed under which the price paid to the sheep farmers has been reduced by 20 per cent., or from 10*s*. to 8*s*. for a carcase weighing 75 lbs. This is likely to lessen the supply considerably, as the colonists, whose stations are not yet fully stocked, are unwilling to sell their sheep at the reduced rate. It may be that the first expenditure was excessive, and that future voyages may be made at less cost; at any rate, the "Selebria," the fine steamship which has been fitted up for the trade, arrived on the 16th of December for a second cargo.

The exportation of ewes to the new settlements in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, which commenced in 1883, rose to a large amount in 1886. In 1883 it amounted to 2,400*l*., in 1884 to 2,720*l*., in 1885 it was 2,078*l*., and in 1886 it was 10,949*l*.

The great rise in the price of wool in 1886 must have proved of great advantage to the Colony.

The financial condition of the Government has also been most satisfactory.

The revenue amounted to 9,295*l*. and the expenditure to 7,950*l*.

There is no public debt, and the excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, including the cash balances in the

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Colonial chests and in the hands of the Crown Agents, was 6,511l.; of this amount 3,000l. has been invested in Colonial securities, in pursuance of an arrangement for securing the permanency of the revenue derived from the rent of the Crown lands, by capitalizing the proceeds of sales of land, nearly half of the revenue of the Colony being derived from the rent of the Crown lands as pastoral stations.

A calamity, which might have had more fatal consequences, befel the town of Stanley on the night of the 2nd of June. The weather had been very rainy, and the large peat bog on the rising ground at the back of the town, which supplies the inhabitants with fuel, became so saturated that a large mass, in a semi-fluid condition, slid down the slope, filling the lower parts of the houses in its course to the harbour, and carrying away fences, outhouses, and smaller obstacles.

Two persons were swept away and suffocated, and but for the extreme darkness of the night, which deterred persons from venturing out of their houses, it is probable that many more would have perished.

The building which formed the church and schoolhouse was so much injured by the pressure of the mass of peat which accumulated against it that it has been found necessary to take it down. A similar peat slip took place in 1878, of which an interesting account was given in the Blue Book for that year.

Efforts were made to secure as worthy a representation of the Colony at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition as its limited range of productions would admit of, but owing to the isolated residences of the producers, who are all engaged in sheep-farming on large stations, in a rough country without roads, and where intercommunication is difficult, the attempt failed, and the Government was unable to procure any exhibits to forward to the Exhibition. The directors of the Falkland Islands Company in London, however, exhibited, at their own expense, samples of wool and tallow from their stations in the Colony.

The Governor left the Colony for England on leave of absence on the 3rd of March, and his term of office having been extended, he returned on the 16th of December.

The Government was administered *ad interim* by Lieutenant-Governor Barkly, Chief Commissioner of the Seychelles.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., M.P.,
&c.

(Signed) T. KERR,
Governor

&c.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 18.

Governor GRANT BLUNT to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR,
I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book Returns for 1886.

The Castle, St. Helena, May 27, 1887.

2. The revenue for the year amounted to 12,186*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, including a grant in aid of 2,000*l.* from the Imperial Treasury on account of mail subsidy. By the comparative statement it will be seen that the revenue exceeded that for 1885 by nearly 1,150*l.*

3. The expenditure, which was estimated at 11,064*l.* 7*s.* 1½*d.*, amounted to 11,209*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, but over 200*l.* beyond the amount estimated for works and buildings was expended principally in improvements to Jamestown drainage. Only 500*l.* of debentures were paid off instead of 1,000*l.* as estimated, but to balance this 546*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* for mail subsidy (December quarter, 1886) was paid, making five quarterly payments for the year instead of four as estimated.

4. The strength of the garrison was increased by about 100 men by the arrival of an infantry detachment, and may possibly be further increased during the coming year. New batteries for the protection of Jamestown Bay have been constructed during the past year, and further works for the protection of this coaling station are contemplated.

5. *Legislation.*

The principal Ordinances enacted during the year were :—

No. 5. To make provision for the apprehension and detention of deserters from foreign merchant vessels.

No. 7. To permit trading with passing vessels under certain restrictions.

These Ordinances have been found to work satisfactorily, and meet the requirements of the Colony.

6. *Civil Establishment.*

Mr. G. A. Banbury left the Colony, and **Mr. W. Grey-Wilson** joined as Colonial Secretary, &c.

Miss Warren joined as schoolmistress in place of Miss Welch, pensioned.

ST. HELENA. Police-sergeant Harrison took over the duties of gaoler in addition to his police duties on J. Richards being pensioned.

7. *Pensions.*

The following changes occurred in the pension list :—

Chief Justice Parker, in receipt of a pension of 128*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and J. Seale, 39*l.* 13*s.*, died. Miss E. Welch, 47*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, and J. Richards, 66*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, were added to the list.

8. *Foreign Consuls.*

C. A. Carrol has ceased to be Consul for Chili and Venezuela.
Saul Solomon has become Consul for Denmark and Portugal, in place of H. Bovell, who has left the Island.
Robt. Pooley has ceased to be Consul for Peru.
A. C. Wadeson has become Vice-consul for Brazil and Consular Agent for Peru.

9. *Education.*

There was a considerable decrease in the number of children attending the girls' school, Jamestown, owing to there having been no mistress for this school for many months, and consequently many of the elder girls have gone to other schools.

10. *Imports and Exports.*

The imports, as compared with 1885, were as follows :—

	1885.	1886.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	30,790	28,949
British Colonies - - - -	8,501	9,276
Foreign Countries - - - -	2,470	2,025
Total - - - -	41,761	40,250

The exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 429*l.* In addition 21,232*l.* bone, oil, and whaling stores were transhipped from American whalers in port. Also 1,615*l.* of coal was landed from a vessel in distress, and afterwards sold in the Island. 343*l.* lime juice, spirits, and wine were taken out of bond as ship's stores, in addition to the amount shown as exports.

11. SHIPPING.

ST. HELENA.

Sailing Vessels Entered.

—				1885.	1886.
British -	-	-	-	24	17 with cargoes.
" -	-	-	-	1	5 in ballast.
Foreign	-	-	-	12	21 with cargoes.
"	-	-	-	5	7 in ballast.

Sailing Vessels Cleared.

—				1885.	1886.
British -	-	-	-	17	18 with cargoes.
" -	-	-	-	5	1 in ballast.
Foreign	-	-	-	4	6 with cargoes.
"	-	-	-	4	4 in ballast.

Steam Vessels Entered.

—				1885.	1886.
British -	-	-	-	33	35 with cargoes.

Steam Vessels Cleared.

—				1885.	1886.
British -	-	-	-	1	2 with cargoes.

ST. HELENA.

12. *Gaols and Prisons.*

	1885.	1886.
Committed - - - - -	54	77
Average daily number in prison - -	2184	2300

There were no deaths, and the sanitary state of the prison was very healthy.

Criminal Statistics.

	1885.	1886.
Total No. of offences reported - -	198	207

There were no convictions in the Supreme Court.

13. *Hospital and Asylum.*

The admissions to the hospital were :—

	1885.	1886.
Males - - - - -	76	74
Females - - - - -	27	25

The number of deaths in hospital were 1885, 8 ; 1886, 16. These were principally sailors left by passing ships.

One male was admitted to the asylum and one male died.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANT BLUNT, Colonel,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

MALTA.MALTA.

No. 19.

Governor Sir J. L. A. SIMMONS to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR, Palace, Valletta, May 25, 1887.
 I HAVE the honour to forward the Malta Blue Book for 1886, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's report on the same.

I have, &c.
 The Right Hon. (Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS,
 Sir Henry Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G. Governor.
 &c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Malta,
 May 23, 1887.
 SIR, I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for 1886:—

1. The revenue and expenditure may be tabulated thus:—

Revenue.

—	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
1883 - - -	133,347	72,219	205,566
1884 - - -	132,850	79,719	212,569
1885 - - -	185,907	77,404	213,311
	402,104	229,342	631,446
Average - - -	134,035	76,447	210,482
1886 - - -	142,069	81,684	223,753
Increase - - -	8,034	5,237	13,271

Or eliminating from "other receipts" of 1884 the 10,000*l.* granted by the Imperial Government on account of the "Egyptian refugees," and from "other receipts" of 1885 and 1886, the increase in the revenue of the Post Office due to the transfer to the Colony on 1st January 1885.

MALTA.

—				Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
				£	£	£
1883	-	-	-	133,347	72,219	205,566
1884	-	-	-	132,850	69,719	202,569
1885	-	-	-	135,907	69,782	205,689
Total	-	-	-	402,104	211,670	613,774
Average	-	-	-	134,035	70,556	204,591
1886	-	-	-	142,069	73,049	215,118
Increase	-	-	-	8,034	2,493	10,527

The following table compares the actual revenue for 1886 with that of 1885:—

—				Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
				£	£	£
1885	-	-	-	135,907	77,404	213,311
1886	-	-	-	142,069	81,684	223,753
Increase	-	-	-	6,162	4,280	10,442

The increase of the revenue is mainly under the head of Customs receipts, and this is principally due to larger consumption by a steadily increasing population and to the prosperous condition of the labouring classes.

Expenditure.

—				Salaries and Allowances.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
				£	£	£
1883	-	-	-	81,446	102,291	183,737
1884	-	-	-	80,606	129,189	209,795
1885	-	-	-	87,712	138,633	226,345
				249,764	370,113	619,877
Average	-	-	-	83,255	123,371	206,626
1886	-	-	-	90,473	180,934	271,407
Increase	-	-	-	7,218	57,563	64,781

Or eliminating from the expenditure for 1885 and 1886, the difference due to the transfer of the Post Office to Colonial control.

MALTA.

—				Salaries and Allowances.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
				£	£	£
1883	-	-	-	81,446	102,291	183,737
1884	-	-	-	80,606	129,189	209,795
1885	-	-	-	85,892	137,571	223,463
Total -				247,944	369,051	616,995
Average -				82,648	123,017	205,665
1886	-	-	-	89,384	174,699	264,083
Increase -				6,736	51,682	58,418

The following table compares the actual expenditure for 1886 with that of 1885 :—

—				Salaries and Allowances.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
				£	£	£
1885	-	-	-	87,712	138,633	226,345
1886	-	-	-	90,473	180,934	271,407
Increase -				2,761	42,301	45,062

2. The following is a statement of assets and liabilities :—

*Legislation.*MALTA.

3. The Council of Government met for the session of 1885–1886 on 19th November 1885.

The following legislation was effected during 1886:—

Ordinances.

No. I.

To prevent the landing of stowaways in Malta.

No. II.

To amend the Criminal Laws.

No. III.

To prevent some doubts in cases of offences punishable in virtue of certain laws.

No. IV.

To extend the jurisdiction of Syndics' Courts in criminal matters.

No. V.

To amend the Police Laws.

No. VI.

To amend Article 45a of the Police Laws.

No. VII.

To amend the law relating to the election of the elective members of the Council of Government of Malta.

No. VIII.

To make certain transitory provisions relating to the election of the elective members of the Council of Government of Malta.

No. IX.

To amend the laws of Organization and Civil procedure.

No. X.

To make some provisions respecting the water supply and the distribution thereof.

MALTA.

Ordinance No. 1 was rendered necessary by the introduction into the Island of numbers of stowaways who were landed here from passing steamers and have had to be maintained and repatriated at the cost of the Government. The Ordinance as passed requires some amendment.

Ordinance No. II. abolishes the punishments of "admonition" and of "detention," neither of which were found to be deterrent, reduces the period before which under ordinary circumstances, a criminal case may not be heard from five days to two, and makes some other necessary amendments in the details of the Criminal Code.

Ordinance No. III. is a consequence of the passing of Ordinance No. II.

Ordinance No. IV. extends the jurisdiction of the syndics in criminal matters so as to prevent the necessity of prisoners and police being brought to Valletta when a minor offence has been committed in a country district.

Ordinance No. V. extends the powers of the police in regard to cab-drivers, and makes some other minor alterations in the Police Laws.

Ordinance No. VI. corrects a clause in Ordinance No. V. by which greater powers were given to the Superintendent of Police in regard to cab-drivers, than was the intention of the Legislature.

Ordinances Nos. VII. and VIII. amend the Electoral Laws. The main alterations are, the setting up of a permanent electoral list, which is to be revised once a year, and the introduction of the principle of nomination.

Ordinance No. IX. amends the law of "Organization and Civil Procedure." The details cannot be discussed within the compass of this report. It is sufficient to say here that the original intention of the Ordinance was to quicken procedure in the courts.

Ordinance No. X. makes provisions with regard to the water-supply, provides for payment for supplies above a certain gratis allowance, and gives the necessary powers to the water authority. As originally passed by the Legislature with the consent of all the elected members except two, it provided for the establishment of water rights under certain conditions; but on the representation of a section of the landed proprietors here, the clauses making these provisions were disapproved and struck out by order of the Secretary of State.

Civil Establishment.

4. The changes in offices during the year were the following :—

Mr. F. V. Inglott, C.M.G., was appointed Postmaster vice Mr. R. Duke, who retired on a pension on 31st December 1885.

Mr. F. Vella, formerly Assistant Secretary to Government for Malta, was appointed Collector of Customs, vice Mr. F. V. Inglott, C.M.G.

Mr. Emilio de Petri, Chief Clerk in the Chief Secretary's Office, was promoted to the situation of Assistant Secretary to Government, vice Mr. F. Vella.

Mr. Richard Micallef was appointed Comptroller of the Charitable Institutions in the room of Mr. G. Monreal, retired on a pension.

Mr. Paolo Trapani, Chief Clerk in the Audit Office, was appointed Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo, vice Mr. R. Micallef.

Population.

5. The births in the year numbered 6,417, and the deaths to 4,302, giving a natural increase of 2,115.

The estimated population on 31st December 1886 was 159,231.

The birth rate in the year was 40 per 1,000, and the death rate 27 per 1,000, against 38 and 35 per 1,000 respectively in 1885.

Savings Banks.

6. The amount of deposits in the savings banks was as follows:—

—	1886. (31st December.)	Depositors.	1885. (31st December.)	Depositors.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
In Malta - -	352,504 9 11	4,654	323,366 17 10½	4,411
In Gozo - -	23,748 17 11	474	19,715 8 1	394
Total - -	376,253 7 10	5,128	343,082 5 11½	4,805

showing an increase of 33,171*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.*, and 323 depositors, and an average of 73*l.* per depositor, against 71*l.* in 1885, and 69*l.* in 1884.

Education.

7. The following is a list of the Government educational establishments:—

—	No. of Scholars.	
	1886.	1885.
The University, attended by - -	43	74
The Lyceum, attended by - -	408	433
Two Secondary Schools, attended by -	129	128
Twenty-five Primary Schools, attended by - - - -	8,341	8,387
Eight Infant Schools, attended by -	1,041	921
Total - - - -	9,957	9,943

MALTA.

The expenditure of the educational establishments amounted in 1886 to 16,529*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.*, and the fees paid by the scholars for attendance amounted to 524*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

8. The following is the	£	£
value of cargoes im- } 706,887 in }		748,259 in 1885.
ported and actually } 1886 against }		
landed at this port - }		

Value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same bottoms - - 11,401,300 against 17,409,004 „

viz. :—

From the United King- dom - -	109,413	„	117,333	„
From the British Colonies - -	2,155,000	„	2,741,760	„
From H.M.'s ships in port - -	1,192	„	435	„
From Foreign countries	9,842,582	„	15,297,735	„
	<u>12,108,187</u>		<u>18,157,263</u>	„

showing a decrease of 6,049,076*l.*

9. The value of exports	£	£
from portions of car- } 42,769 in }		53,051 in 1885.
goes which were } 1886 against }		
actually landed at this } port - - }		

Value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottoms - 11,370,798 against 17,355,978 „

viz. :—

To the United Kingdom	3,070,234	„	5,629,361	„
„ British Colonies -	2,322,094	„	4,077,118	„
„ H.M.'s ships -	6,301	„	6,925	„
„ Foreign countries -	6,014,938	„	7,695,625	„
	<u>11,413,567</u>		<u>17,409,029</u>	

showing a decrease of 5,995,462*l.*

*Shipping.*MALTA.

10. The shipping movement in the port during the last three years is shown in the following return :—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1883 - - -	4,230	4,667,390	1,582	152,066
1884 - - -	3,851	4,388,756	1,530	133,742
1885 - - -	4,424	5,140,817	1,381	128,671
	12,505	14,191,963	4,493	414,479
Average - - -	4,168	4,730,654	1,498	138,160
1886 - - -	3,605	4,349,015	1,257	97,405
Decrease - - -	563	381,639	241	40,755

The following is the report of the Collector of Customs on this decrease:—

“ The above decrease may in part be attributed to the quarantine which it was necessary to impose in this Island during a portion of the year against several ports in the Mediterranean; and also to the improvements introduced in most of the merchant steamers enabling the bunkers to hold a larger quantity of coals, and thus avoid calling at ports which offer little inducement for obtaining cargoes.

“ There is also another reason for the cause of the decrease under this head. It has been reported that banks involved in shipping undeniably suffered last year, and are probably destined still to suffer: for although there is an unquestionable improvement in the state of trade generally in the United Kingdom, the keen competition in the shipping industry, and the consequently low freightage rates, render it almost impossible for this kind of business to be profitably pursued under existing conditions, and it is well known that many shipowners prefer leaving their steamers in the docks idle rather than charter them at a low freightage without any profit.”

MALTA.*Criminal Statistics.*

11. The following is a statement of offences punishable under local laws, showing the number of accusations and of persons brought before the courts by the police in 1886:—

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
Crimes against public tranquillity - -	70	95	5	90
" affecting public credit - -	2	2	2	—
" " the good order of families - -	39	44	8	36
" against the person - -	475	671	104	567
" " property - -	268	346	76	270
CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Affecting public order - -	1,708	2,930	405	2,525
Against the person - -	628	846	146	700
" property - -	83	145	13	132
OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Under special Ordinances - -	706	1,147	62	1,085
POLICE LAWS.				
Contraventions - -	3,096	5,011	297	4,714
Total - -	7,075	11,237	1,118	10,119

vis. :—

Maltese - -	-	11,050 in 1886, against 12,192 in 1885.
English - -	-	180 " " 113 "
Foreign - -	-	7 " " 11 "
	<u>11,337</u>	<u>12,316</u>

The number of persons committed to prison in 1886 was as follows:—

Men - -	-	4,951
Women - -	-	507
Boys - -	-	933
Girls - -	-	19
		<u>6,410</u>

General Observations.

Since last year's report was written great progress has been made with the waterworks.

The reservoir at Tal Gali, which holds 11,000,000 gallons, has been completed, and has been named the Santa Maria reservoir.

The pumping engine at Tal Armier has been erected, and the whole of the Valetta and Floriana system of distribution has been completed.

The San Antonio supply has also been completed and is in working order, and the Three Cities' supply is also completed and will be opened in the course of a few days.

The supply of Rabato and Notabile has been in working order for some time with a temporary engine, and a permanent engine is now being erected. The supply of Sijjiewi is on the point of completion.

A new source of pure water has been discovered at Wied-is-Seuda, from which 150,000 gallons a day can probably be derived. An engine has been ordered, and the source is being connected with the Santa Maria reservoir.

A survey has been made of portions of Gozo; a report on the subject of the supply of that island will shortly be submitted, and Mr. Chadwick has submitted a project, which will shortly be published, for a large irrigation reservoir in Malta to hold 50,000,000 gallons.

At the close of the year the Savings Bank and Monte were separated and established as separate institutions, having dealings with each other and banking with the Treasury. A new system of accounts has been set up in each establishment, from which, for the first time, it is possible to ascertain daily, at the close of business, the exact financial state of each institution.

It will be noticed that the death rate during the year, though still high (27 per 1,000), was 8 per 1,000 less than in 1885. This improvement, I am glad to say, continues, and during the present year the death rate has during two fortnights been below 20, so far as I know an unprecedented occurrence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,**
Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency

Sir J. L. A. Simmons, G.C.B.,

Governor of Malta,

&c. &c. &c.

LAGOS.

LAGOS.

No. 20.

Governor ALFRED MOLONEY to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Lagos,

August 22, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the report on the Blue Book of the Colony by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. F. Evans, C.M.G.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALFRED MOLONEY,

Governor.

The Right Hon.

Sir Henry T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.

&c.

&c.

&c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of LAGOS for the year 1886.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

The following were the only changes made during the year :—

Telegraph plant imported in telegraph ships was exempted from Customs duties and from wharf and warehouse dues, under an Ordinance (No. 6) passed by the Legislative Council.

Building and roofing materials and stores were exempted from Customs duties, under an Ordinance (No. 10) passed by the Legislative Council.

The principal taxes and duties paid in the Colony are under Customs, but Marriage, Auction, and Liquor Licenses are paid for under local Ordinances.

Fees are paid for the registration of deeds, for grants of land, for use of the meat market and slaughter-house, for the registration of shipping and seamen, for surveys of shipping and under the rules of the Supreme Court.

Customs duty is charged, under Ordinance No. 8 of 1877, upon all spirits, wines, liqueurs, brandy, and cordials, and upon tobacco, cigars, beer and malt liquor, cowries, salt, gunpowder, guns and pistols imported into the Colony.

All other articles, except those specially exempted by Ordinance, pay an ad valorem duty of four per cent.

There is no export duty.

Drawbacks are, under certain conditions, defined by Ordinance, paid upon spirits, tobacco, and other imported goods upon exportation by inland communication to Porto Novo or beyond the seas.

Rent is charged under Ordinance No. 8 of 1873 for goods stored in the Queen's warehouse for more than seven days and

also, under Ordinance No. 6 of 1885, for gunpowder stored in the Government magazines.

Lagos.

Wharfage is charged, under Ordinance No. 2 of 1868 on all goods landed or shipped not being personal luggage.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Against an estimated revenue of 61,495*l.* there was received 53,507*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, or only an amount it was anticipated we should obtain from Customs alone.

The estimated expenditure was 55,317*l.* 12*s.*, and the actual 55,383*l.* 2*s.*

Of the revenue all but 6,507*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* was received from customs and wharfage, the former giving 44,427*l.* 8*s.*, and the latter 2,572*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*; of the remaining 6,507*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, postage gave 1,070*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, licenses 1,520*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, and interest on investments 1,426*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* Of the 44,427*l.* 8*s.* received from customs, 36,315*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* was from specific duty, and 8,112*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* from *ad valorem*.

In 1885 the revenue was 63,504*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, of which 56,108*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* was received from customs. The decrease during 1886 is accounted for by the low price of the staple articles of commerce, palm oil and palm kernels, in the European markets.

The expenditure of 1886 exhibits an increase of 15,069*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* over that of 1885.

Of this increase about 2,000*l.* may be looked upon as the sequence of separation from the Gold Coast Colony, provision having to be made for an increased establishment, additional transport, allowances, and rent.

Under the head of establishment there was an increase of 4,478*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, 3,563*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* for fixed salaries and 621*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* for provisional salaries.

Under the head of pensions a sum of 2,482*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* was expended in 1886, as against 147*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* in 1885.

Of the excess in 1886, 2,334*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, 1,838*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* was a refund to the Gold Coast for payments made by that Government on behalf of Lagos before the separation.

The balance of excess, 8,330*l.*, is accounted for under services principally, Post Office, 500*l.*; customs, 600*l.*; public works, 2,900*l.*; constabulary, 500*l.*; medical, 200*l.*; transport, 800*l.*; aborigines, 1,250*l.*; marine, 180*l.*; miscellaneous, 1,400*l.*

Under public works there was an increase of 3,009*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* in 1886 over the expenditure of 1885. This has been already explained.

An extraordinary expenditure of 1,499*l.* was incurred under the head of Aborigines, this being the amount spent during the year on the mission to the interior undertaken with a view to secure peace among the tribes, &c.

I give hereunder tables comparing under each head of receipt and disbursement the revenue and expenditure of the Colony during 10 successive years ended with 1886:—

1860s.

RECEIPTS.

	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Customs	£ 53,392 13 5	£ 42,067 7 1	£ 46,860 6 6	£ 40,902 17 8	£ 55,946 18 6	£ 38,183 13 4	£ 48,012 11 10	£ 50,764 17 3	£ 54,108 5 9	£ 44,487 8 0
Sale of Government property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land Sales	28 9 2	182 19 9	42 0 10	110 0 11	83 15 4	121 17 3	76 19 10	51 12 5	36 5 1	102 17 6
Do. Revenue	5 6 10	3 6 3	12 10 0	13 15 0	13 10 0	27 0 0	-	28 12 1	63 0 4	-
Do. Revenue	77 0 0	8 3 0	4 10 0	10 10 0	12 0 0	3 0 0	-	1 10 0	1 15 6	-
Postal do.	324 5 3	331 1 5	337 3 11	294 0 8	312 7 10	347 18 0	391 11 0	371 5 0	372 16 9	1,070 15 10
Rent, exclusive of lands	175 5 3	249 10 4	196 6 3	214 11 3	208 11 4	207 11 3	227 14 4	235 10 3	212 10 7	223 10 3
Licenses	2,043 0 0	1,960 3 0	2,029 0 0	1,814 0 0	1,707 10 0	1,392 0 0	1,404 10 0	1,469 10 0	1,402 0 0	1,330 16 6
Fees of office	607 0 3	553 1 11	776 9 0	489 11 9	413 3 6	439 16 9	564 3 9	240 13 0	225 18 6	103 3 0
Fines, forfeitures, and fees, &c.	883 13 7	1,182 1 3	1,148 16 8	890 6 8	790 14 7	663 14 8	490 6 3	715 13 11	631 3 0	831 16 2
Miscellaneous	1,267 2 4	3,241 16 9	2,337 0 9	2,505 6 4	2,157 3 9	2,537 1 11	3,543 13 0	3,864 2 2	4,033 4 7	3,035 6 0
Reimbursement	1,045 13 3	899 13 5	873 7 7	770 6 3	763 7 10	271 10 10	633 5 0	100 0 0	261 8 10	390 10 9
Interest on investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,436 19 10
Government vessels	447 7 8	189 2 2	308 13 0	43 4 7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over-payments refunded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 13 6	4 10 0	194 19 1
Special receipts	25 0 0	2 0 0	1 10 0	3 10 0	12 10 0	11 10 0	-	-	-	-
Surcharges recovered	0 1 0	9 15 0	13 13 1	-	-	25 10 9	0 0 8	-	-	-
	59,389 16 0	50,889 5 4	54,369 13 7	47,937 1 1	42,421 12 8	44,636 4 9	50,638 15 8	57,938 5 6	60,305 13 4	53,507 2 11

LAGOS.

EXPENDITURE.

	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries, fixed	{ 17,641 15 10 } 940 78 4	19,861 1 4	19,333 16 3	23,614 11 0	20,831 3 5	23,825 3 0	17,459 13 0	21,236 13 5	20,538 19 7	24,402 3 11
Provisional and Temporary	1,089 15 8	387 7 4	4,641 1 0	4,407 0 2	1,097 5 10	4,031 7 3	878 4 11	1,142 8 4	683 11 0	1,244 13 6
Allowances	2,513 3 0	1,128 1 2	980 16 9	1,373 17 7	1,351 14 0	1,241 1 1	963 6 1	1,513 15 6	1,929 15 6	1,337 5 8
Contingencies	10 6 8	63 2 5	129 16 2	61 0 3	35 7 2	36 1 8	47 6 0	49 19 6	135 15 6	1,023 5 2
Administrator	{ 27 14 6 } 57 70 3	46 9 8	39 17 3	63 19 11	313 4 6	63 16 6	76 2 1	74 11 3	79 19 4	144 3 2
Executive Council	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 0 0
Customs and Treasury	{ 6 17 1 } 113 77 4	11 18 1	34 17 0	81 2 9	17 17 0	30 7 4	13 13 1	4,447 1 5	2,543 10 11	3,105 9 3
Post Office	{ — } 11 49 6	320 0 0	140 11 0	373 11 0	307 18 6	373 2 2	237 1 6	107 8 9	57 7 0	559 1 10
Public Works	{ 5,014 9 9 } 162 2 2	4,598 17 11	3,440 9 2	4,331 14 0	4,653 1 2	2,503 5 9	2,033 7 4	2,590 0 10	5,998 2 0	8,937 5 7
Harbour Master	{ 73 10 4 } 38 78 4	57 7 10	81 18 11	307 10 10	383 9 1	116 14 4	86 19 10	108 16 7	121 3 6	256 10 3
Government Vessels	{ 776 19 5 } 164 73 4	480 18 8	1,068 13 11	1,391 13 7	1,190 10 11	589 11 3	994 3 8	731 5 2	680 14 5	718 5 11
Medical Department	{ 1,437 2 10 } 97 7 4	1,713 3 3	1,238 8 10	1,341 19 8	1,309 1 11	915 11 9	936 16 10	1,026 12 6	846 1 1	1,080 15 3
Sanitary	—	—	—	—	—	151 16 6	194 4 6	191 17 6	194 2 6	204 3 0
Constabulary	{ 203 11 5 } 74 74 0	1,471 4 8	1,373 12 3	1,786 18 11	1,160 6 2	883 0 6	566 5 4	514 9 2	335 11 10	861 13 0
Prison	{ 707 0 3 } 118 7 7	925 14 1	1,236 13 11	1,437 0 6	1,165 2 11	1,223 16 11	1,130 13 0	1,580 12 1	1,300 1 11	1,097 3 11

LAGOS.

EXPENDITURE—continued.

	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Judicial Department	£ s. d. 189 14 6	£ s. d. 142 14 10	£ s. d. 56 13 0	£ s. d. 233 3 7	£ s. d. 43 8 6	£ s. d. 107 4 6	£ s. d. 40 19 0	£ s. d. 33 4 0	£ s. d. 40 4 3	£ s. d. 53 13 7
Miscellaneous Establishment	—	—	—	—	2,905 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
Printing Department	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pensions	{ 1,109 19 10 593 0 8	1,348 9 10	1,388 10 0	1,318 6 8	1,332 10 0	1,344 9 0	1,209 11 8	1,340 4 7	147 17 1	2,433 13 6
Charitable Allowances	—	—	5 9 0	10 0 0	80 5 6	3 5 0	8 15 4	19 11 3	2 16 0	38 7 2
Ecclesiastical Department	—	—	63 17 0	173 6 2	193 5 3	29 7 7	56 1 0	68 13 8	—	—
Education	—	—	646 6 2	643 10 8	638 13 7	634 10 0	633 10 0	738 4 10	634 0 0	634 0 0
Rent	—	—	67 14 6	31 18 9	55 16 8	64 6 8	5 0 0	263 13 5	341 9 11	339 3 0
Transport	{ 547 19 1 166 7 0	951 7 1	817 16 6	1,841 18 5	1,322 3 3	762 9 4	331 15 3	1,354 8 9	1,237 19 8	2,047 16 11
Interest	—	—	85 4 0	83 14 10	159 8 5	—	145 4 6	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	{ 1,512 0 1 288 10 2	8,233 18 9	5,533 6 3	7,238 16 2	2,437 0 3	1,544 17 10	3,533 14 10	2,292 4 11	498 2 9	1,397 13 4
Aborigines	—	—	1,254 14 2	1,431 0 10	1,310 6 10	1,337 3 11	1,404 1 7	1,636 14 4	1,737 7 5	2,903 10 1
Drawbacks	—	—	2,923 3 0	3,042 18 11	1,314 14 10	2,183 13 1	4,533 16 11	—	—	—
Liabilities	—	—	136 8 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Special	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,178 15 0	—	—
Total	{ 5,510 10 9 39,094 16 8 44,203 7 5	40,735 10 4	45,934 13 10	55,476 14 2	45,441 13 10	44,039 2 11	37,379 9 3	44,633 11 9	40,313 13 2	55,333 2 0

Public Debt.

LAGOS.

The Colony is, with the exception of a few deposits in the Treasury chest, sums held in trust for the Court, &c., amounting in all to 3,198*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, free from debt.

A sum of 66,180*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* was, on the erection of Lagos into a separate Colony, apportioned to it from the surplus funds of the Gold Coast Colony.

There was 64,304*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December 1886, 54,485*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* of which was invested by the Crown Agents.

Military Expenditure.

There was no expenditure for Imperial Troops, who were removed from the Colony in 1870.

The Colony is defended by an armed constabulary consisting of 400 rank and file. Of these 242 compose the Houssa force. The force is commanded by an Inspector-General, an Artillery Inspector, and two Assistant Inspectors. It was maintained at a cost of 10,435*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, accounted for as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
Pay and allowances	-	-	9,573	18	2
Clothing, accoutrements	-	-	466	14	5
Arms, ammunition, &c.	-	-	395	3	7
			<u>10,435</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>

For the more efficient conduct of the civil duties required of the constabulary the Island of Lagos was divided into districts, and the beats for constables were clearly defined, but pending an increase in the force no further action has been taken.

Legislation.

By Letters Patent dated the 13th January 1886, a Legislative Council was established in the Colony. The Council consists of the Governor, four official and three unofficial members. The unofficial members are appointed for a term of three years.

The following Ordinances, passed during the year, received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and approval:—

No. 1 of 13 February. Extending to the Colony of Lagos the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony and of the Settlement of Lagos, hitherto in force in the Settlement of Lagos and adjacent territories.

A. This was consequent on the separation of this Colony from that of the Gold Coast.

LAGOS.

No. 2 of 15th March. Providing for the service of the Colony during the year.

No. 3 of 17th June. Establishing a Government Savings Bank.

B. The result of the passing of this Ordinance has been very satisfactory. Its ultimate effect upon the people cannot but be of material benefit to the Colony.

No. 4 of 17th July. Separating the Treasury and Customs offices.

No. 5 of 13 July. Providing for a subsidy to a certain telegraph line.

C. This grants to the Imperial Government 1,000*l.* per annum for 20 years.

No. 6 of 31st July. Exempting telegraph plant from Customs and other dues.

No. 7 of 21st October. Providing for the service of the Colony during 1887.

No. 8 of 21st October. Making further provision for the administration of justice.

D. This was consequent upon the separation of this Colony from the Gold Coast, a Supreme Court for the Colony of Lagos being constituted.

No. 9 of 28th December. Protecting property in telegraph messages.

No. 10 of 28th December. Exempting building and roofing material and stores from Customs duties.

E. This was passed with a view to encourage the poorer inhabitants to discard thatched roofs to their houses, thereby diminishing the number and extent of fires, which are of frequent occurrence.

Executive Council.

By Royal Letters Patent dated the 13th January 1886, an Executive Council for the Colony of Lagos was constituted, and it was provided that the Senior Civil Member should administer the Government of the Colony in the absence of the Governor.

Civil Establishment.

By Royal Warrant Captain C. A. Moloney, C.M.G., Administrator of the Gambia Settlement, was appointed to be Administrator of Lagos, and on 13th February relieved Mr. Frederick Evans, C.M.G., who since May 1885 had been in charge of the administration as "Deputy for the Governor of the Gold Coast."

The Administrator left the Colony on the 25th July 1886, when Mr. Evans resumed charge of the Government as Acting Administrator.

Many changes and appointments were made during the year, the majority of which were consequent upon the erection of the Colony into a separate and independent Government.

The most important appointments were the following:—

Mr. Frederick Evans, C.M.G., to be Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Oliver Smith to be Queen's Advocate.

Mr. Henry Higgins to be Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Edward George Woolhouse to be Treasurer.

Mr. William Joseph Parker Elliott to be Collector of Customs.

Mr. Edward Harrinson Richards to be District Commissioner.

Mr. Edmund Peel to be Inspector General of the Constabulary.

There were also three junior constabulary officers and two foremen of works appointed to the European staff.

Pensions.

The expenditure under this head was 2,482*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

Public Works.

The expenditure under this head shows a large increase (3,009 3*s.* 7*d.*) over that of the previous year, but several works of importance, which had long been deemed necessary, were undertaken during the first year of the Colony's separation from Gold Coast control.

The Marina embankment, which already assumes a very imposing and pleasing appearance, was undertaken in earnest; a length of 120 yards having been completed and an area of 2,000 yards having been recovered from the Lagoon and added to the roadway originally formed by the late Sir John Glover.

The erection of a good substantial brick wall, 13 feet high, around the prison was commenced, to replace a mud wall, which depended for its support upon props placed against it from the outside. This wall, upon which 1,255*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* was spent in 1886, has been completed at a total cost of 1,724*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

Quarters for the gaoler, a Houssa guard-room, and new cells for condemned prisoners were also commenced in connexion with the prison wall.

Five Cowries Creek Bridge was completed during the year, and much was done towards advancing the road to the beach. This road, which now approaches completion, is very extensively used for purposes of recreation by Natives and Europeans. The former flock along it to the sea in large numbers on Sundays and holidays.

Two police-stations, each with four "lock-ups," and each surrounded, for purposes of defence, by a strong brick wall, well loop-holed, were begun, one at Ebute Ero, and one at Tappa (or Oshodi) quarter.

A billiard room was erected in the Government House compound. Repairs and alterations were made to the official quarters of the Colonial Secretary and to those of the Queen's Advocate.

LAGOS.

The hospitals, the Central Police Station, the Court House, and other Government buildings were also repaired, the whole at a cost of 1,586*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*

The repairs to roads, streets, and bridges cost 1,334*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

The roadway between Kokomaiko and the Five Cowries Creek Bridge, alongside a swamp named (by Governor Griffith) "Kimberley," and between it and the lagoon, was raised, partly embanked, and rendered available for passenger and other traffic at a cost of 413*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

A severe tornado, which swept over Lagos on the 12th April, played havoc with numerous large trees in the streets. In cutting up and clearing away the fallen trees an expenditure of no less than 172*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* was incurred.

Imports.

In 1886, as compared with 1885, there was a falling off in the imports to the value of 184,733*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, those from the United Kingdom showing a decrease of 69,650*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, and those from foreign countries 115,732*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* The United Kingdom suffered principally under cotton goods (54,329*l.*), but also under guns (4,441*l.*), hardware (5,134*l.*), haberdashery (3,539*l.*), and earthenware (3,333*l.*).

German exports diminished by 92,375*l.*, French by 2,958*l.*, and Brazilian by 1,277*l.* The River Niger was included (erroneously) among the foreign countries, and from there the value of the imports into Lagos fell from 18,808*l.* in 1885 to 1,978*l.* (ivory 1,089*l.*) in 1886, a decrease of no less than 16,830*l.*, owing to the exceptionally large import of potash to the Colony in 1885 from the Niger amounting to the value of 14,455*l.* Germany diminished its supply of geneva by 81,070*l.*, but increased its export of rum by 8,290*l.*

France fell short principally in provisions, 1,490*l.*

Of the gross value of the imports, 357,831*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, the United Kingdom gave us 222,882*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; foreign countries (Germany 95,293*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*), 130,241*l.* 11*s.* 0*d.*; and the British Colonies, 4,706*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* From Germany the Colony received 27,094*l.* out of the 4,427*l.* 8*s.*, collected for duties on Customs. The specific duties alone amounting to 26,570*l.*, of which 25,366*l.* was paid on spirits (geneva 11,967*l.*, rum 13,399*l.*).

The United Kingdom contributed 12,169*l.* towards our Customs revenue, of which 7,495*l.* was on ad valorem goods. Thus Germany contributed $\frac{2}{5}$ of our Customs revenue as against $\frac{3}{7}$ contributed by the United Kingdom, and of the specific duty (36,318*l.*) Germany paid $\frac{1}{2}$, while of the ad valorem duty (8,109*l.*) the United Kingdom paid $\frac{3}{5}$.

Imports for transit paying 835*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* duty were valued at 16,368*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*

The free imports were valued at 30,868*l.*, of which 2,674*l.* was for Government stores, &c.

Tables showing the quantities and value of the principal articles of import, and whence they were received during ten years ending with the year under review, are given below:—

LAGOS:

TABLE showing PRINCIPAL ARTICLES (Quantity and Value) imported into Lagos in Ten Years, 1877 and 1886.

Articles.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	Average.
Cotton goods - - - £	288,975	194,619	170,578	141,684	109,084	188,069	230,680	226,112	198,782	180,483	187,404
Cowries - - - { Cwt. £	60,598	89,442	57,624	32,126	12,083	9,465	15,918	13,598	13,209	6,460	31,044
Geneva - - - { Gallons	33,703	20,503	35,003	18,071	6,361	6,130	8,949	7,180	6,745	2,278	14,404
Geneva - - - { Gallons	296,455	264,140	453,977	493,102	433,928	502,907	732,685	1,105,698	1,369,913	501,164	698,096
Guns - - - { No. £	36,337	36,577	63,540	46,311	47,565	51,909	74,558	102,873	122,873	40,964	63,264
Guns - - - { No. £	16,598	9,659	8,413	20,404	7,768	2,058	3,659	5,947	13,040	3,903	8,923
Gunpowder - - - { Barrels £	6,904	8,414	5,161	7,323	3,069	779	1,363	2,364	5,983	1,547	3,765
Gunpowder - - - { Barrels £	4,154	1,878	948	839	1,761	1,796	2,688	3,423	1,905	1,924	2,105
Haberdashery - - - £	7,691	3,400	1,756	1,546	2,836	3,339	4,571	5,965	2,940	3,415	3,745
Hardware - - - £	15,535	6,680	9,497	8,327	10,020	5,045	6,716	7,790	9,767	6,238	8,548
Hardware - - - £	7,586	7,401	5,881	6,739	5,081	4,416	9,899	11,192	15,601	10,367	8,986
Rum - - - { Gallons	1,009,427	839,160	1,259,640	568,097	684,738	419,548	349,536	331,128	407,884	608,495	647,848
Rum - - - { Gallons	77,028	59,982	73,467	46,163	53,931	30,236	23,906	23,575	24,861	29,333	43,886
Salt - - - { Cwt. £	87,880	59,660	41,620	77,200	73,000	105,360	99,880	76,900	87,120	123,320	83,260
Salt - - - { Cwt. £	6,871	4,261	2,941	5,895	8,308	10,847	10,009	6,615	7,753	11,397	7,423
Shooks - - - { Bundles	17,331	10,130	7,549	9,966	9,007	12,407	14,387	9,088	12,126	12,712	11,468
Shooks - - - { Bundles	12,963	8,719	7,197	9,061	7,454	12,325	13,472	8,848	11,286	13,461	10,433
Spirits, other than gin and rum - £	1,337	1,506	1,863	1,168	537	397	817	978	781	597	986
Spirits, other than gin and rum - £	1,054	891	1,047	963	293	338	467	634	511	406	661
Tobacco - - - { Lbs. £	1,401,917	1,412,867	1,349,922	1,300,104	1,151,637	1,198,835	1,077,617	1,361,683	1,192,391	1,316,685	1,283,378
Tobacco - - - { Lbs. £	33,543	32,126	30,141	24,900	24,441	26,905	24,028	26,139	26,339	29,042	26,150
Provisions, including ale and porter, aerated water, &c. - £	13,253	13,078	16,474	17,866	12,268	11,707	11,373	13,710	20,028	16,427	14,416
Other articles - - - £	68,708	63,965	83,546	58,249	87,795	39,301	67,322	56,069	73,086	49,764	59,733
Total - - - £	603,463	453,597	506,131	391,746	321,365	391,503	496,963	496,264	633,697	393,961	453,445
Specie - - - £	5,896	30,026	21,741	16,628	12,274	87,581	28,471	86,987	19,567	4,860	2,593
Total - - - £	614,359	483,623	527,872	407,370	333,639	479,083	515,394	583,251	642,664	397,821	474,978

LAGOS.

TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS (including Bullion and Specie) into LAGOS, distinguishing Principal Countries in the Ten Years 1877 to 1886.

Countries.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	Average.
United Kingdom	287,487	307,946	271,760	244,860	160,467	279,979	314,839	386,318	293,533	222,883	283,906
British Possessions :-											
Sierra Leone	1,283	2,744	2,333	2,041	1,464	2,196	1,693	496	1,064	1,460	1,307
Germany	86,573	88,460	114,619	84,627	104,341	99,358	126,080	161,251	187,069	95,304	113,840
France	66,511	51,034	49,642	14,009	18,518	7,843	10,016	6,128	9,134	6,176	20,256
Mosambique	9,571	4,390	6,174	6,054	1,973	—	4,333	1,330	26	—	3,426
Zanzibar	21,617	15,196	26,466	9,842	2,720	3,600	3,919	4,307	3,997	1,536	9,372
Porto Novo	1,346	1,689	2,905	1,378	672	1,165	1,433	968	1,313	1,790	1,507
Windward, Coast of Africa	5,340	4,333	3,697	3,781	3,978	7,316	5,683	3,951	3,182	4,514	4,618
Leeward "	1,576	971	4,404	698	1,308	943	2,394	4,655	10,222	4,098	3,180
United States	—	—	2,779	6,675	8,140	6,163	5,423	5,863	1,994	2,366	3,929
Brazil	30,727	31,436	28,746	31,580	27,177	10,810	16,719	10,978	19,083	17,761	23,697
Total Principal and other Countries	614,369	493,623	527,873	407,370	333,659	422,863	515,394	583,331	542,564	387,831	474,978

Exports.

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The gross value of the exports during the year was 538,980*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, as against 614,181*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* in 1885. Of the total value the United Kingdom was credited with 308,896*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, foreign countries with 222,598*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, and the British Colonies with 7,484*l.* 19*s.*

The produce and manufactures of the Colony were valued at 485,474*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, of which 306,248*l.* 16*s.* went to the United Kingdom, 172,981*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* to foreign countries, and 6,243*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* to the British Colonies.

The 306,248*l.* 16*s.* sent to the United Kingdom included palm oil, 180,134*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*; palm kernels, 119,805*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; ivory, 3,804*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*; and raw cotton, 1,813*l.* 6*s.*

Of the 172,981*l.* exported to foreign countries Germany took 124,915*l.* 19*s.*; France, 23,490*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; Brazil, 6,402*l.* 1*s.*; Portugal, 6,725*l.*; Denmark, 9,000*l.*

Of the 6,243*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* sent to the British Colonies the Gold Coast absorbed 4,877*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, and Sierra Leone 1,354*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*; the exports being in each case native manufactured cloths (Gold Coast 4,019*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, Sierra Leone 932*l.*).

Of the 9,441*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* exported to the River Niger only 196*l.* (kola nuts) was produce of the Colony, the balance being made up of cotton goods (4,014*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*), cowries (3,401*l.* 11*s.*), jewellery (52*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*), provisions, hardware, &c. (1,777*s.* 7*s.* 5*d.*); all of which were imported into Lagos for transhipment, drawbacks being paid to the amount of 184*l.*

The exports to Porto Novo, 37,954*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, of which only 10*l.* was produce of the country, similarly consisted mainly of goods on which drawbacks to the extent of 2,579*l.* were paid. These goods were principally tobacco (11,615*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*), geneva (8,859*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*), rum (2,826*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*), salt (1,049*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*), and specie to the value of 1,025*l.* There was also sent to Kutonu 150 tons of palm kernels valued at 1,050*l.*

The exports to Germany were made up of palm kernels, 111,604*l.* 17*s.*; palm oil, 12,183*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; and ivory, 1,013*l.* 10*s.*; those to France of palm kernels, 12,851*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; and palm oil, 10,639*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; those to Portugal also of palm kernels, 1,110*l.*; and palm oil, 5,615*l.*; those to Brazil of palm oil, 3,929*l.* 12*s.*; country made clothes, 997*l.* 4*s.*; kolah nuts, 1,002*l.*, &c. The 9,000*l.* worth of palm kernels sent to Denmark was exceptional.

The total exports include specie to the value of 3,947*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, of which 2,141*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* went to Great Britain.

LAGOS.

STATEMENT showing QUANTITIES and VALUE of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of EXPORTS from LAGOS during Ten Years ended 1886.

Articles.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
<i>Produce of the Colony.</i>										
Beniseed	2844 3,167	485 188,980	5 24,900	57 615	8 38	198 1,789	408 3,760	138 1,092	18 168	4 34
Cotton (Raw)	598,650 19,488	2,758	588	6,000	168,989	480,480	411,354	530,414	278,880	98,980
Country cloths	—	384	287	800	2,648	8,108	9,868	11,454	5,797	1,813
Ivory	11,003	983	1,411	1,385	2,137	5,949	7,408	6,833	10,784	6,809
Kola nuts	3,088	383	309	889	2,479	2,679	42,756	4,001	5,916	13,983
Palm kernels	30,676 388,592	27,274 317,860	27,241 319,445	23,688 346,146	30,801 281,636	28,591 801,186	26,680 278,808	26,773 337,346	80,804 288,808	34,813 288,483
Palm oil	3,804,997 889,154	1,570,858 139,004	2,469,418 208,786	1,584,423 183,226	1,807,597 1,47,483	2,687,287 319,181	1,971,369 186,687	2,384,686 288,588	2,687,776 218,281	3,087,838 218,194
Other articles	616,415	463,987	580,576	463,373	377,363	501,168	468,199	574,730	580,687	488,046
British and foreign produce	190 118,173	613 112,763	213 123,492	903 92,335	1,687 80,967	1,901 78,686	2,384 38,808	1,748 98,916	3,487 90,107	2,487 63,506
Total	784,708	577,386	654,589	576,510	480,007	681,064	594,136	673,414	614,181	588,980

LAGOS.

STATEMENT showing TOTAL VALUE of EXPORTS (including Bullion and Specie) from LAGOS, distinguishing Principal Countries during Ten Years ended 1886.

Countries.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
United Kingdom	£ 276,246	£ 284,980	£ 281,623	£ 286,487	£ 160,216	£ 267,248	£ 266,007	£ 249,704	£ 194,007	£ 209,896
British Possessions:—										
Gambia	—	—	—	—	—	7	113	5	35	228
Sierra Leone	—	—	—	55	576	883	925	1,615	2,486	1,449
Gold Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,021	7,289	5,390
Benin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	454
River Niger	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,320	1,738	4,573	9,442
Germany	153,524	112,908	115,941	163,933	115,525	124,364	176,740	283,727	210,360	125,516
France	176,804	79,158	175,183	67,100	77,555	64,624	53,946	18,080	87,517	23,491
Porto Novo	—	108,649	117,564	74,649	67,071	62,511	60,592	81,410	82,689	37,955
Windward Coast of Africa	—	13,064	1,873	823	3,796	3,394	4,886	968	2,374	1,470
Leeward	86	99	2,220	2,945	3,465	9,321	26,310	12,837	231	1,454
United States	—	—	—	—	16,947	14,700	3,365	3,384	3,783	698
Brazil	10,475	13,449	20,313	20,379	14,366	20,027	6,063	13,937	10,764	6,454
Other Countries	112,173	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,374	16,726
Totals	734,708	577,386	684,860	876,510	460,007	581,064	594,186	672,414	614,131	533,980

* Prior to 1884 Windward Coast of Africa includes the Gold Coast.
 + Do. 1885 Leeward do. Benin and River Niger.

LAGOS.*Commercial Relationship, Lagos and following Countries.*

Countries.	Value of Exports to Lagos.	Value of Imports from Lagos.	Total.
United Kingdom - -	£ 222,883	£ 308,896	£ 531,779
Germany - - -	95,294	125,916	221,210
France - - -	6,176	23,491	29,667
United States - - -	2,256	692	2,948
Brazil - - -	17,761	6,455	24,216
Denmark - - -	—	9,000	9,000
British Colonies - - -	4,707	7,031	11,738
River Niger - - -	1,978	9,442	11,420
Other Countries:- - -	6,776	48,057	54,833
Total - - -	357,831	538,980	896,811

General Remarks.

The year 1886 was an eventful and a "red-letter" year for Lagos. By Letters Patent dated 13th January 1886, Lagos was separated from the Gold Coast and erected into a separate Colony. Its first Governor, Mr. Moloney, C.M.G., entered upon, soon after his assumption of the reins of Government, at the request of the parties concerned, the settlement of what was locally known as the Interior War, which began in 1877 between the Egbas and Ibadans, the name being applied at its end to the hostile camps established at Kiji-Oke Mesi and Ife-Modakeke. The tribes concerned were, on the one side the Oyos, Ibadans, Modakekes, and on the other the confederates known as the Ekiti-parapos, the Ifes, and Jebus.

The envoys and messengers accredited to his Excellency agreed, as a preliminary measure on behalf of those they represented, on the 4th June 1886 to a treaty of peace, friendship, and commerce, which was later ratified, with a minor modification, by the Kings, Bales, Baloguns, and Chiefs concerned. After such

LAGOS.
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ratification, and according to the conditions of the treaty, it remained for the Government to take steps towards the breaking up of the Kiji-Oke Mesi camp; and thus securing to the interior the peace so much desired. Commissioners (Messieurs H. Higgins and O. Smith) were accordingly sent into the interior towards such an end, to secure peace and promote trade between the tribes, *inter se*, and Lagos. The mission was most successful; intertribal wars of 10 years' duration were ended; peace and trade among the various formerly hostile tribes restored; thousands of people returned to their homes, and the influence and friendly intentions of the Government made apparent to the natives of the interior. One result of the mission has been already to set free produce that had been allowed to remain uncared for and uncollected during the troubles, and so lower the prices and increase trade with Lagos. It is hoped to result later in a considerable improvement of the financial condition of the Colony. During the time that initial transactions proceeded an important part was faithfully played by two Yorubas as the Governor's representatives, the Rev. Charles Phillips and the Rev. Samuel Johnson, who both deserve well of their country. In connexion with the settlement effected the especial thanks of the people have been formally conveyed to the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Frederick Evans, C.M.G.; who conducted the government during the absence of his Excellency and pursued successfully the lines of policy laid down by the Governor; and to the two Commissioners, Messieurs H. Higgins and O. Smith, for the final proceedings necessary after ratification of the treaty. The correspondence on the subject the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been pleased to decide to have laid before Parliament during its present Session.

In conclusion I would say that I feel assured that Lagos, which in about 25 years only has developed from an emporium for slaves into a flourishing Colony with a revenue of 532,127*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, and an annual trade of about 896,811*l.*, has a grand future before it.

It is already known as the "Liverpool of West Africa"; given certain political conditions and additional staple articles of export and it will rapidly attain the highest measure of success as a British West African Colony.

FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

Lagos, August 9, 1887.

Fiji.F I J I.

No. 21.

Governor Sir C. B. H. MITCHELL to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Suva, Fiji,

June 11, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a report on the Blue Book for 1886, drawn up by Sir John Thurston, K.C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary, who, as Lieut.-Governor, administered the Government of the Colony during the year in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

&c.

&c.

&c.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, YEAR 1886.

I.—TAXES, DUTIES, FEES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

No material change has been made in taxation during the year. The following statement embraces the alterations that have occurred, viz. :—

Native Taxes.

1. The assessment has been reduced to 17,700*l.*, that is to say, by 100*l.* from the year 1885. This has been brought about through the re-adjustment of the assessment of four provinces (Bua, Nadroga, Colo East and Colo West) to a sum more in accord, as found by experience, with their population and fertility, the two first-named provinces being each reduced by 100*l.*, while those last named were assessed at 250*l.* each in place of the previous joint assessment of 400*l.*

The commutation tax payable by native masters and permanent crew of vessels owned by native communities, and native ministers and teachers, by payment of which they are when so employed absolved from work in connexion with the payment of native taxes in kind, was fixed by regulation at 2*s.* per mensem in place of 1*l.* per annum as formerly. Commutation tax is payable at the same rate by native Fijian labourers engaged for hire to Europeans.

2. Fees payable to the Marine Board have been re-arranged by Ordinance No. 18 of 1886, which repealed the Ordinance of 1882. The schedule of fees has been altered in form, and added to, but the respective fees have not been increased in amount.

Levy and Distress.

3. The costs and charges of distress (under authority of Ordinance No. XIII. of 1876) have been re-arranged to better meet the physical condition of the Colony.

Postal Tariff.

4. The rates of letter postage to Tonga and to Queensland have been reduced from 6*d.* and 4*d.* per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. respectively to 2*d.* per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. rate each.

Water Supply Rates.

5. The water supply service for the town and suburbs of Suva having been completed, a rate of 9*d.* per £ on the valuation of house property has been imposed. Water is also supplied to vessels at the rate of 1*s.* per ton.

Notaries Public.

6. Under authority of the Notarial Public Ordinance No. V. of 1886, a fee of 25*l.* is leviable on appointment as notary public.

Trade Marks.

7. Provision has also been made for the registration of trade marks within the Colony by authority of Ordinance No. IV. of 1886, for which fees as specified are chargeable.

II.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue and expenditure for each of the past five years are shown in the following statement. The figures given hereunder are exclusive of the receipts and expenditure on account of Polynesian immigration :—

Year.					Revenue.			Expenditure.		
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1882	-	-	-	-	90,491	15	4	90,082	17	1
1883	-	-	-	-	105,588	15	5	88,276	19	11
1884	-	-	-	-	91,522	19	5	98,467	19	2
1885	-	-	-	-	76,668	19	10	92,209	2	11
1886	-	-	-	-	64,574	1	1	78,133	8	2

FIG.

The following comparative statement shows for the years 1885 and 1886 the amount of receipts under each separate head of revenue, and specifies the proportion which the amount received under each separate head bears to the total revenue, viz. :—

Statement showing (1) Amount, (2) Proportion of Revenue collected under each Head. Years 1885 and 1886.

Head of Revenue.	Year 1885.		Year 1886.	
	Revenue collected.	Proportion from each Head.	Revenue collected.	Proportion from each Head.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Customs dues	31,311 16 6	41·23	29,351 11 4	45·45
Warehouse and wharfage dues	4,310 0 11	5·48	3,606 12 6	5·58
Pilotage, light, and shipping dues	1,900 3 3	2·47	1,807 7 1	2·79
General licenses	4,136 4 6	5·45	3,954 9 6	6·13
Native taxes	17,094 6 3	22·29	9,468 12 11	14·65
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	2,040 10 7	2·66	2,395 14 7	3·71
Postal dues	2,133 3 4	2·78	2,058 4 1	3·13
Stamps	1,942 1 1	2·53	1,302 3 8	2·01
Hospitals	2,777 12 11	3·62	2,198 14 5	3·40
Freights	378 8 1	·49	40 10 0	·07
Miscellaneous	4,102 5 0	5·35	4,482 7 5	6·94
Fees on Crown grants and surveys	1,005 18 8	1·31	916 11 9	1·41
Land sales	685 12 2	·89	877 0 2	1·36
Registration fees	527 5 0	·68	335 14 0	·51
Native industrial school	127 4 0	·16	230 19 8	·43
Receipts, Labour Depot	1,595 13 7	2·06	1,151 7 6	1·73
Repayment of former advances for returning Polynesian immigrants	350 14 0	·45	342 0 6	·53
Total	76,668 19 10	—	64,574 1 1	—

It will be observed that the principal sources of revenue are :—

- (1.) Customs dues ;
- (2.) Native taxes ;
- (3.) General licenses ;

and these, with the addition of stamp duties, may be regarded as the extent of the actual direct taxation, the other items of revenue being chiefly in the nature of payment for services rendered.

The statement of revenue for the year 1886 shows a falling off from the previous year on 13 of the items before enumerated, amounting in the aggregate to	£ s. d.	13,175 8 10
And an increase on four of the items amounting to		1,080 10 1
Being a net decrease of		<u>12,094 18 9</u>

The principal decrease is on the chief items of direct taxation, viz. :—

FIG.

	£	s.	d.
On native taxes - - -	7,630	13	4
On Customs dues - - -	2,260	5	2
Total - - -	9,890	18	6

While these items of direct taxation contributed in 1885 63·52 per cent. and in 1886 60·10 per cent. of the total revenue, the falling off under those heads from the revenue of 1885 forms 74·31 of the aggregate decrease for the year and 81·78 per cent. of the net decrease.

The causes which brought about these decreases may be stated as follows :—

Native Taxes.

1. The revenue under this head was short of the assessment for the year by 8,236*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, and this deficit is almost entirely traceable to the effects of the disastrous hurricanes of January and March 1886, by which the current cocoanut crop was in many parts of the Colony utterly destroyed, the fructification of the trees being also retarded in many cases for more than a season. In consequence of this visitation the natives were unable to meet the assessment of taxes.

Customs Dues.

2. In this case the decrease though serious has come about with less abruptness. The Customs dues collected during each of the years since January 1880 has been as follows :—

	£
1880 - - - - -	23,995
1881 - - - - -	29,508
1882 - - - - -	36,794
1883 - - - - -	46,305
1884 - - - - -	41,166
1885 - - - - -	31,611
1886 - - - - -	29,351

From this statement it will be seen that there has been a continued falling off in each of the years since 1883. The high figure reached in that year is accounted for by the fact that extensive operations were then in progress within the Colony in connexion with the establishment of new sugar mills, and the removal of the seat of Government from Levuka to Suva ; and, although all agricultural machinery is admitted free of duty, the Customs revenue was considerably affected by the importation of building material, and by the fact that many mechanics brought from the neighbouring Australasian Colonies were temporarily employed in the Colony, by reason of which the consumption of imports was increased and the revenue correspondingly augmented.

FRONT.

The decrease of 1884 may be partly accounted for by the cessation of this somewhat abnormal condition of things, while that of 1885 can be ascribed only to the agricultural and commercial depression which then began to be felt in the Colony, occasioned in great measure by the difficulties confronting the manufacturers of sugar who, in common with those of all other sugar-growing British Colonies, have had to compete with the bounty-fed beet sugars of Europe.

The tension caused by this competition has reacted on Colonial industry generally and has left its mark on the Customs revenue. The falling off in the year 1886 may be set down to the continued depression, assisted in its effects by the hurricane already alluded to, which has reduced the spending power of both European and native.

The falling off on the other items of revenue, amounting in the aggregate to 3,284*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, or (after deduction of an increase on four of the items of 1,080*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*) to the net sum of 2,204*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* arises from the combination of causes described in connexion with the decrease on the revenue from direct taxation.

While there has been a falling off in the revenue of the year amounting to 12,094*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* the expenditure has also decreased (by 14,075*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*) to the sum of 78,139*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, causing a net deficit of 13,559*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

The expenditure for the year shows a net saving on the amount estimated of 3,427*l.* 5*s.*

The decrease as compared with the year 1885 has been effected by—

	£	s.	d.
1. A reduction on establishments to the extent of - - -	4,051	6	6
2. A diminution of the amount expended on public works of -	6,259	9	5
3. Saving on medical establishment - - -	1,665	16	11
4. Saving on stationery and rations	931	3	9
5. Reduced costs of surveys - -	854	8	8
6. On all other branches of the service (except pensions, Lunatic Asylum, Postal Department, Treasury, Public Debt, and Immigration Department, on which there has been an increased expenditure in the aggregate of 1,440 <i>l.</i> 18 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>) there has been effected a net saving as compared with the year 1885 of -	713	9	6
Total - - -	14,075	14	9

The following statement shows the expenditure for the year as compared with last year:—

Fljr.

	1886.	1885.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil establishment - - -	30,984 4 2	34,903 11 8
Contingent expenditure (including public works, interest and repayment, &c. of public debt) - - -	32,951 15 2	42,772 6 10
Judicial establishment - - -	7,422 18 4	7,554 17 4
Contingent expenditure - - -	1,500 14 5	1,829 9 5
Miscellaneous - - -	5,030 16 1	4,984 12 8
Pensions - - -	243 0 0	164 5 0
Total - - -	78,133 8 2	92,209 2 11

The position of the Colony on the 31st December 1886 is shown in the following statement of assets and liabilities:—

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on the 31st December 1886.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.
Advances due to the Colony (recoverable) - - - £ s. d. 194 12 9	Deposits due by Colonial Government as per attached statement - £ s. d. 609 15 0
PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT— Fixed deposits at interest - £ s. d. 21,524 15 9 Credit balance at Bank of New Zealand 31st December 1886 - 2,000 3 2 Cash in chest as per certificate 190 14 2 23,805 13 1	PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT— Wages and return passage money of Polynesian labourers - - - £ s. d. 23,805 13 1
INTERSTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT— Fixed deposits at interest - £ s. d. 1,500 0 0 Credit balance at Bank of New Zealand, 31st December 1886 - 399 17 4 1,899 17 4	INTERSTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT— Balances standing to credit of above estates - - - £ s. d. 1,899 17 4
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS INTRODUCTION FUND— Fixed deposits at interest - £ s. d. 2,000 0 0 Credit balance at Bank of New Zealand, 31st December 1886 - 22 14 4 616 12 7 2,620 6 11	INDIAN IMMIGRANTS INTRODUCTION FUND— Amount standing to credit of above account - - - £ s. d. 2,620 6 11
Carried forward - - - £ s. d. 24,530 10 1	Carried forward - - - £ s. d. 23,954 12 4

Fig.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Brought forward	- 28,530 10 1	Brought forward	- 28,264 12 4
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS RETURN PASSAGE FUND (under Ordinance XIII. of 1882)—		INDIAN IMMIGRANTS RETURN PASSAGE FUND (under Ordinance XIII. of 1882)—	
Fixed deposit at interest	- 10,514 5 7	Amount standing to credit of above account	- 10,514 5 7
Fund for the redemption of the debentures loan 150,000 <i>l.</i> (under Ordinance No. XIII. of 1880)	887 13 8	CAPITAL SUM, proceeds of the sale of native lands, on which interest at 5 per cent. per annum is paid by the Crown to the native owners	- 2,734 13 4
Amount due to the Immigration Department as per statement—	9,506 11 8		£ s. d.
Advance from public account against Suva works advance (Ordinance No. XX. of 1882)	11,437 17 3	IMPERIAL ADVANCES—	
Unpaid portion of 6,553 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i> , advance made from public account for Indian introduction, ex "Ganges," recoverable by annual payments from 1885–89 (under Ordinance No. XVI. of 1884)	2,777 16 5	— 104,025 7 11	
Imperial pensions paid in the Colony and recoverable from Paymaster-General, London	154 14 0	10,670 0 0	114,695 7 11
Advances made from public account for shipwrecked crews (recoverable)—		LOAN—Floated under Ordinance No. XIII. of 1880	- 150,000 0 0
"Syria" (balance)	- 34 0 0	Less principal of debentures redeemed during the year	- 7,600 0 0
"Flora"	- 8 3 6		142,400 0 0
"Bella Mary"	- 7 8 0	PUBLIC ACCOUNT—Cheques outstanding, 31st December 1886	- 11,837 4 7
"Christine"	- 43 14 0	Amount due to Bank of New Zealand, debit balance, 31st December 1886	- 22,324 10 3
"Howard D. Troop"	70 13 6		
Credit balance with Crown agents, London, 31st December 1886	- 219 11 5		
	64,261 19 1		
Excess of liabilities	- 269,068 14 11		
	333,350 14 0		333,350 14 0

WILLIAM MCGREGOR,
Receiver-General,
9th May 1887.

Audited,
D. J. CHISHOLM, Auditor,

IV.—LOCAL REVENUES.

The receipt of these is confined to (1) the town board and school board of Suva; (2) town board and school board of Levuka.

The gross revenue and expenditure of the town boards for the year is as follows :—

		<i>Revenue.</i>					
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward	-	9	11	1			
Receipts	-	3,860	8	6			
		<hr/>			3,869	19	7

<i>Expenditure.</i>			
Balance brought forward	-	33	17 3
Disbursements	-	3,711	12 6
		<u>3,744</u>	<u>9 9</u>

Credit balance carried forward	-	125	9	10
--------------------------------	---	-----	---	----

The gross revenue and expenditure of the same bodies in their capacity of school board of the respective towns is as follows:—

FWL

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward -	-	24	1	7		
Receipts - - -	-	1,864	3	5		
					1,888	5 0

Expenditure.

Balance brought forward	-	74	10	9		
Disbursements - -	-	1,722	19	7		
					1,797	10 4
Credit balance carried forward	-				90	15 8

Of the school board revenue the sum of 652*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* was contributed as Government grant under Ordinance No. X., 1882.

V.—PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt at 31st December 1886 amounted to 264,695*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*

Of this amount the following sums are due to the Imperial Government, viz.:—

£	s.	d.
104,025	7	11
10,670	0	0
114,695	7	11

These sums bear no interest and are to be repaid when the circumstances of the Colony will permit.

The sum first mentioned was granted by the Imperial Government in aid of the local revenue of the Colony during the two years succeeding annexation. There was defrayed therefrom the expenses incident to the cession of the Colony, and the establishment of British government therein, the local revenue being then insufficient for any extraordinary purposes.

The second item of 10,670*l.* represents the amount of compensation paid to German subjects in respect of certain of

Fiji.

their claims to land in Fiji disallowed by the Lands Commission plus certain expenses connected with the mixed Commission appointed to inquire into those disallowance of these claims.

The remaining sum of 150,000*l.* is due to the holders of debentures under the Loan Ordinance, 1880. This loan bears interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and is repayable by half-yearly appropriations of 10*s.* per cent. on the total nominal amount of all debentures issued on or before the first day of each half year, including any which may have been redeemed, the amount being paid by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. Of this loan the sum of 7,600*l.* has been repaid.

From this loan the following expenditure was made up to 31st December 1882, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
1. Payment of liabilities of the late so-called Government of the Fiji Islands - - -	100,000	0	0
2. Suva works - - -	19,966	15	7
3. Lighthouses - - -	93	14	7
4. Coolie immigration - - -	13,753	13	2
5. Levuka Pier - - -	1,289	2	10
6. Expenses of the Commission appointed by the Imperial Government to inquire into claims to land - - -	10,000	0	0
	145,103	6	2
Balance transferred to public account -	4,896	13	10
	150,000	0	0

From this it will be seen that two thirds of this loan was absorbed in discharging debt incurred before the annexation of the group. Since the date mentioned the expenditure on construction of lighthouses, for which purpose 5,000*l.* of the loan was originally appropriated, has amounted to 3,000*l.*

The principal lighthouse is now in course of construction, and during the first quarter of the year 1887 an additional sum of 2,742*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* has been expended thereon.

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

As has already been mentioned, the expenditure on public works has, in view of the falling off in revenue, been curtailed during the year.

The following are the works undertaken with the amounts expended thereon :—

Fiji.

	£	s.	d.
1. Roads, bridges, and culverts -	290	18	2
2. Suva wharf repairs -	78	5	0
3. Repairs and additions -	1,046	12	4
4. New boats, and repairs to boats and vessels -	137	19	11
The Suva water supply, begun in 1882 and finished in 1886, involved a total cost of construction	9,336	6	8

VII.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances and native Regulations have been passed during the year :—

To amend Ordinance No. XII. of 1885, intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the care and maintenance of orphan Indian Immigrants."

To amend "the Lunatic Asylum Ordinance, 1884."

To amend Ordinance No. VIII. of 1878, intituled "An Ordinance for the better prevention of accidents by fire."

To establish a register of trade marks.

To provide for the appointment of notaries public.

To authorise the expenditure of 10,531*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* for the service of the year ending the 31st day of December 1885 in excess of the amount already sanctioned by Ordinance.

With respect to imprisonment for debt.

To amend Ordinance No. XVI. of 1885, intituled "An Ordinance with regard to the commutation of indentures of Indian immigrants."

To provide for the employment of native labourers on time or task work.

To provide for the issue and payment of Post Office money orders.

To prohibit the growth and use of bang or gunjah.

For supplying the town of Suva, and its suburbs with water.

With regard to Polynesian immigration.

To amend Ordinance No. VI. of 1878 with regard to Indian immigrants.

To extend the operation of Ordinance No. XX. of 1882.

To apply in this Colony the provisions of the 12th section of an Act of the Imperial Parliament 16 & 17 Vict. cap. 69. with respect to Her Majesty's navy.

To appropriate a sum not exceeding 13,173*l.* to the service of the two months ending the 28th day of February 1887.

To repeal previous enactments relating to the appointment of a Marine Board, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

Regulating the importation of foreign animals.

FIN.*Native Regulations.*

Concerning Duguci ni Yalewa and Vola ni Yalewa.
 In respect of native labourers going to work for hire.
 Amending Regulation No. III, 1881, prohibiting the use of white men's intoxicating drinks.

VIII.—COUNCILS.

1. *Executive Council*.—A change has been effected in the *personnel* of the official members by the appointment of the Hon. Henry Spencer Berkeley to the office of Attorney General.

2. *Legislative Council*.—A similar change took place here.

The changes in the unofficial membership consisted of the appointment of James Robertson, Esq., to act during the absence on leave from the Colony of the Hon. James E. Mason, and of Charles D. Cuthbert, Esq., to act during the temporary absence on leave of the Hon. James Murray.

IX.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Governor Sir William Des Vœux, who had been absent from the Colony since 21st January 1885, was on 12th April 1886 appointed Governor of the Colony of Newfoundland.

Sir Charles Bullen Hugh Mitchell, K.C.M.G., was, on 3rd August 1886, appointed Governor of the Colony, but did not assume the duties of his office during the year.

The Government was administered by the Hon. John Bates Thurston, C.M.G., from 3rd August 1885 till the end of the year 1886. On 13th August 1886 he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony.

The post of Acting Colonial Secretary was held during the year by the Hon. William McGregor, C.M.G., that of Acting Receiver General, necessitated by the before-mentioned appointment of Dr. McGregor, by the Hon. George Ruthven Le Hunt, and that of Acting Agent General of Immigration by Dr. Bolton Glanville Corney during the absence on leave of the Hon. Henry Anson, which extended throughout the whole year.

Seventeen officers were absent on leave at various times during the year, for the most part on short terms of sick (vacation) leave.

Twenty-eight officers gave security for the due discharge of their duties.

The bonds given were duly scrutinized by a Committee consisting of the Attorney General and Receiver General.

X.—PENSIONS.

The name of James Molloy, late court keeper, whose office was abolished at 31st December 1885, was placed on the pension list in respect of a compassionate allowance of 30*l.* per annum.

X.—POPULATION.

F.L.J.

The total population of the Colony appears from the following return to be 126,010. These figures are an estimate arrived at by the Registrar General from statistics furnished to him. That officer is of opinion that the population is from 3,000 to 4,000 less than is shown in the return, but this conclusion is open to doubt.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans - - -	2,457	916	3,373
Half-castes - - -	417	415	832
Indians - - - -	3,425	2,721	6,146
Chinese - - - -	24	3	27
Chinese half-castes - -	6	2	8
Polynesian labourers - -	2,860	215	3,075
Polynesian (others) - -	114	77	191
Rotumans - - - -	1,095	1,226	2,321
Fijians - - - -	58,329	51,708	110,037
Total - - -	68,727	57,283	126,010

F.L.J.

XI.—NATIVE STATISTICS.

The following statistics with reference to the vitality of the native population are furnished by the Provincial Department :—

Year.	Population.	No. of Marriages.	Marriage Rate.	Births.			Birth Rate.	Deaths.			Death Rate.
				M.	F.	Total.		M.	F.	Total.	
Ending 30th April 1881	-	1,089	9.49	2,134	2,012	4,146	36.12	2,142	1,800	3,942	34.85
" 30th September 1882	-	1,138	9.91	2,306	1,969	4,275	37.25	2,284	1,927	4,161	36.26
" " 1883	-	1,078	9.37	2,276	2,149	4,425	38.47	2,499	1,963	4,392	38.18
" " 1884	-	917	8.01	2,344	2,011	4,355	37.84	3,656	3,261	6,917	60.12
From 1st Oct. to 31st Dec. 1884, 1 yr.		296	10.58	500	464	964	34.46	798	776	1,574	56.26
" " 1885	"	1,151	10.28	2,284	2,069	4,353	38.90	2,589	2,352	4,941	44.15
" " 1886	"	1,142	10.25	2,113	1,862	3,975	35.71	2,653	2,295	4,948	44.45
" " 1886	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average	-	1,099	9.69	-	-	-	36.96	-	-	-	44.82

FIG. 1.

It will be observed that for the period since April 1881, when the census was taken, the average marriage rate has been 9·69, the average birth rate 36·96, and the average death rate 44·82.

During three of the years the birth-rate has been in excess of the death rate, while during the latter three years of the period the death rate has been considerably in excess of the birth rate.

The marriage rate and the birth rate (in computing which still-births are not taken into account) may be regarded as satisfactory, comparing favourably with the rates of the United Kingdom, and other countries in a condition of settled civilization; but the death rate of the past three years is phenomenal. It is, however, clearly seen where the loss occurs. It is computed that during the year 1885 36·6 per centum of all deaths among the native population were of children under one year of age. The proportion of deaths at that age in England, which in this respect is higher than either of the sister kingdoms, is 14·9 per centum.

It is further ascertained that of the native deaths occurring under one year of age nearly one half took place during the first month.

It would thus appear that the excessive mortality occurs among the very young children, and the Government is accordingly taking means to impress on the attention of the natives the necessity for greater care and better treatment of infants. At the same time it has to be borne in mind that during the past three years the population have had to contend with ever-recurring epidemics of whooping cough, influenza, and kindred ailments, which are foreign to the people, and which accordingly affect them with a severity unknown in countries where these diseases are endemic.

XII.—IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION FROM THE COLONY DURING THE YEAR.

Immigration.

Polynesian labourers	-	-	-	-	278
Indian labourers	-	-	-	-	995
Europeans arrived in the Colony	-	-	-	-	668
Total					<u>1,941</u>

Emigration.

Polynesian labourers returned to their homes on expiry of engagements	-	1,343
Indian labourers	-	8
Europeans departed from the Colony	-	762
Total	-	<u>2,113</u>

FLI.

XIII.—RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

Europeans.

The following religious bodies are represented :—

Church of England - - -	2 churches.
Roman Catholic - - -	2 „
Presbyterian - - -	1 „
Wesleyan Methodist - - -	1 „
Jews (number from 30 to 40) - -	No „

From 500 to 600 Europeans attend the ministrations thereof.

Native.

There are two missions to the native population, viz., the Wesleyan Methodist and the Roman Catholic.

The statistics of the respective bodies are as follows :—

Wesleyan Mission.

Churches - - -	862
Other preaching places - - -	406
European missionaries - - -	10
Native ministers - - -	56
Native catechists - - -	47
Native teachers - - -	983
Local preachers - - -	1,919
Native class leaders - - -	3,480
Church members - - -	27,125
Church on trial - - -	4,264
Catechumens - - -	2,455
The total number of adherents of the Wesleyan denomination in the Colony is - - -	
	100,150

Roman Catholic Mission.

European missionaries - - -	13
Churches - - -	14
Chapels - - -	70
Training institutions - - -	3
Native teachers - - -	8
European sisters - - -	2
The total number of adherents of the Roman Catholic denomination in the Colony is estimated at - - -	
	9,100

XIV.—EDUCATION.

F.W.I.

European.

There are six Sunday schools with an attendance of about 240. Of these there are in connexion with the Church of England 2, Roman Catholic Church 2, Wesleyan Church 1, Presbyterian Church 1.

There are two common schools one in Suva and the other in Levuka.

The returns from these schools give the following statistics :—

	Suva.	Levuka.
Average attendance - - - Boys	73	53
" " - - - Girls	92	50
Total - - -	165	103
Number of teachers - - -	3	2
Government grant - - -	£ s. d. 317 10 0	£ s. d. 333 6 0
School fees collected - - -	155 5 0	133 15 0
School rates collected - - -	294 0 2	626 6 11

The school rate levied in connexion with the Levuka School was abnormally high for the year under review in order to cover the cost of an action for damages brought against the board by a teacher.

Native.

Schools for the education of native children are almost conducted entirely by the Wesleyan Mission. The following are the statistics of its work :—

Sabbath schools - - -	- 1,425
Attendance thereat - - -	41,432
Day schools - - -	- 1,765
Attendance thereat - - -	40,718

Native schools are also conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission, as mentioned under statistics of Religious Bodies, but the particulars of attendance are not available. At Rotumah

Fiji.

there are two day schools connected with this church with an attendance of about 200. At Suva there is also an evening school for immigrants from the New Hebrides group, which is attended by about 16 pupils.

Industrial School.

There is also, established by Government, at Yanawai, Vanua Levu a native industrial or technical school, at which 96 boys selected from the various provinces receive an education in the usual scholastic subjects and are instructed in agricultural and pastoral pursuits and in carpenters' work, particularly as to boat-building, in which they become quickly and fairly proficient. This school is under European superintendence, assisted by seven "gasi ni vuli," or Fijian tutors. The net cost to the Colony during the year was 703*l.* 18*s.*

XV.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The following table shows the total trade of the Colony for each year since annexation :—

TOTAL TRADE of the COLONY.

Year.	Imports.			Exports.			Total Trade.
	For use in the Colony.	Imported for Exportation, South Sea Island Produce.	Total.	Produce of Colony.	Imported Produce Exported.	Total.	
1875 -	£ s. d. 118,646 15 4	£ s. d. 16,460 0 0	£ s. d. 135,106 15 4	£ s. d. 77,906 5 6	£ s. d. 16,460 0 0	£ s. d. 94,366 5 6	£ s. d. 229,573 0 10
1876 -	94,906 13 3	22,673 0 0	117,479 13 3	80,786 0 3	22,673 0 0	103,459 0 3	220,937 13 6
1877 -	132,565 13 5	24,671 10 0	159,587 3 5	114,922 1 0	26,671 10 0	140,593 11 0	300,430 13 5
1878 -	136,007 15 1	46,020 0 0	182,627 15 1	146,945 8 0	46,020 0 0	192,965 8 0	375,463 3 1
1879 -	142,212 11 5	36,598 10 0	178,739 1 5	132,513 13 0	36,598 10 0	169,040 8 0	347,779 9 5
1880 -	185,740 13 10	52,066 18 0	237,797 11 10	177,912 6 4	51,616 4 0	229,528 10 4	467,326 3 2
1881 -	270,089 14 9	44,998 3 6	321,087 18 3	190,633 13 5	43,611 13 3	174,146 10 8	495,183 8 11
1882 -	305,329 8 2	20,256 12 6	323,696 0 8	163,435 8 0	27,061 15 0	190,517 3 0	514,103 3 8
1883 -	450,664 13 9	31,066 13 3	481,661 7 0	330,163 3 1	31,615 0 9	351,998 3 10	833,659 10 10
1884 -	454,622 2 6	9,697 13 8	444,319 16 2	355,646 4 2	9,697 13 8	345,943 17 10	789,563 14 10
1885 -	294,034 18 1	6,445 15 4	301,030 13 5	330,304 5 2	6,445 15 4	336,750 0 6	637,780 13 11
1886 -	308,565 5 7	21,673 13 2	230,638 18 9	261,823 14 0	21,673 13 2	283,496 7 2	514,125 5 11
Total for 12 years	2,778,396 4 2	354,546 9 5	3,113,441 13 7	2,262,011 11 11	340,892 14 2	2,602,904 6 1	5,715,746 19 8
Average -	231,574 12 0	27,878 17 5	259,453 9 5	188,500 19 4	28,357 14 6	216,858 13 10	476,312 3 3
Proportion which each division bears to the total trade -	48·68 per cent.	5·55 per cent.	54·47 per cent.	39·58 per cent.	5·98 per cent.	45·53 per cent.	-

F.L.T.

FLJ.

It will be observed that for the total period imports form 54·47 per cent. and exports 45·53 per cent. of the total trade. The preponderance of the value of imports is due mainly to the large quantity of machinery and building material imported during the years from 1880 to 1885 inclusive.

The value of such imports during those years was as follows, viz.:—

	£
1880 - - -	23,189
1881 - - -	85,153
1882 - - -	62,432
1883 - - -	104,279
1884 - - -	127,345
1885 - - -	62,991

Total for six years - 465,389

= 23·93 per cent. of the total imports for those years (1,944,811½).

For the five previous years the value of machinery and building material imported was as follows, viz.:—

	£
1875 - - -	8,440
1876 - - -	4,373
1877 - - -	7,926
1878 - - -	12,221
1879 - - -	11,352

Total for the five years - 44,312

= 7·09 per cent. of the total imports for those years (625,218½).

For the last year of the period 1886 the value of those items imported was 15,673½, or 7·50 per cent. of the imports.

The relative position held by imports and exports for the total period becomes reversed towards the later years, as is shown by the following statement from the report of the Receiver-General:—

“Imports and exports have respectively formed the following per-centage of the total trade of the years stated, viz.:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1880 - - - -	50·88	49·11
1881 - - - -	64·88	35·16
1882 - - - -	62·94	37·05
1883 - - - -	57·77	42·22
1884 - - - -	56·26	43·73
1885 - - - -	47·95	52·04
1886 - - - -	44·85	55·14

11. The figures below will show the proportions according to nationality in which the trade of the Colony was carried on in 1886.

FIG. 1.

Nationality of Importer or Exporter.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
America, U.S. - - -	237	—	237
Austrian - - -	8	—	8
Chinese - - -	207	—	207
French - - -	97	—	97
German, general - -	12,116	24,705	36,821
„ produce imported -	17,302	17,302	34,604
Indian - - -	178	—	178
Mixed firms - - -	7,768	247	8,010
British subjects - -	192,720	241,242	433,963

The following returns exhibit the trade of the Colony with the different countries during the year 1886, viz. :—

TOTAL TRADE OF THE COLONY WITH DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

(1.) *Return showing the Total Value of Imports into Fiji from the different Countries for the Year ending 31st December 1886.*

Country.	Dutiable.	Free.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
India - - -	1,268 6 1	297 5 5	1,565 11 6
Line Islands - - -	8 0 2	704 14 0	707 14 2
New Caledonia - -	135 15 0	10 0 0	145 15 0
New Hebrides - -	801 18 4	65 0 0	366 18 4
New South Wales -	89,327 15 7	29,532 3 0	118,859 18 7
New Zealand - -	22,232 1 9	15,957 17 0	38,189 18 9
Nuiafou - - -	—	3,515 0 0	3,515 0 0
Samoa - - -	91 15 10	8,960 16 0	9,052 11 10
Solomon Islands -	—	154 7 6	154 7 6
Tonga - - -	146 7 1	8,551 14 6	8,698 1 7
United Kingdom -	18,014 17 11	4,755 9 0	17,770 6 11
United States - -	1,722 19 0	—	1,722 19 0
Victoria - - -	18,465 19 5	11,390 9 6	29,856 8 11
Wallis Island - -	—	23 6 8	23 6 8
Total - - -	146,710 16 2	83,918 2 7	230,628 18 9

Fiji.

(2.) *Return showing the Value of Exports to the several Countries for the Year ending 31st December 1886.*

Country.	Value.
	£ s. d.
Germany - - - - -	55 2 6
Line Islands - - - - -	48 16 5
New Britain - - - - -	108 10 7
New Caledonia - - - - -	4 16 0
New Hebrides - - - - -	56 4 0
New South Wales - - - - -	159,916 4 5
New Zealand - - - - -	48,620 7 0
Portugal - - - - -	36,859 13 10
Samoa - - - - -	180 13 9
Solomon Islands - - - - -	38 1 4
Tonga - - - - -	7,222 19 1
Victoria - - - - -	30,384 18 3
Total - - - - -	383,496 7 2

(3.) *Return showing the Total Trade of the Colony of Fiji and its proportions with the under-mentioned Countries respectively.*

Country.	Total Trade.	Per-centage.
	£	
New South Wales - - -	278,776	54·22
New Zealand - - -	86,810	16·88
Victoria - - -	60,241	11·71
Portugal - - -	36,859*	7·16
United Kingdom - - -	17,770	3·46
Tonga - - -	15,920	3·09
Samoa - - -	9,232	1·79
Other Countries - - -	8,578	1·66

* NOTE.—This sum represents the value of cargoes leaving the Colony in ships clearing for Lisbon for orders. There is no actual trade with Portugal. The cargoes ultimately reach England, Germany, or France.

The following statement shows the value of imports from Great Britain and British Possessions and from foreign countries respectively for each year to the end of 1886 :—

FLA.

STATEMENT showing the AGGREGATE ANNUAL VALUE of IMPORTS from GREAT BRITAIN and BRITISH POSSESSIONS, and from FOREIGN COUNTRIES for the 11 years ending 31st December 1886.

(Excluding Produce imported for Exportation.)

	Great Britain and British Possessions.				Foreign Countries.				Total Imports.
	Live Stock.	Machinery.	Other Items.	Total.	Live Stock.	Machinery.	Other Items.	Total.	
Year	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	2,774 8 0	791 16 0	90,845 1 11	94,411 5 11	—	—	304 7 4	304 7 4	94,805 15 3
1877	4,594 6 6	1,268 10 0	118,598 2 0	120,060 18 6	—	—	7,804 13 11	7,804 13 11	128,865 18 5
1878	2,639 5 6	2,171 3 1	128,379 6 6	133,079 15 1	70 0 0	—	3,468 0 0	3,538 0 0	136,607 15 1
1879	4,738 18 9	2,008 11 7	138,176 13 3	140,396 3 7	—	—	6,514 7 10	6,514 7 10	146,913 11 5
1880	5,642 8 2	14,644 0 4	160,155 13 10	180,453 3 4	—	—	5,288 11 6	5,288 11 6	185,740 13 10
1881	4,311 10 4	61,300 19 5	204,350 2 6	270,473 13 3	—	—	5,567 2 6	5,567 2 6	276,039 14 9
1882	7,006 8 7	37,251 0 0	250,943 8 8	296,689 17 3	—	—	7,439 10 11	7,439 10 11	303,339 8 2
1883	10,069 4 3	57,141 11 3	363,496 1 7	431,305 17 0	—	—	19,283 16 9	19,283 16 9	450,594 13 9
1884	9,573 6 7	103,133 17 7	313,738 16 2	426,738 0 4	—	40 0 0	7,744 2 2	7,784 2 2	434,522 2 6
1885	5,344 17 11	53,566 5 3	230,336 11 5	289,787 14 7	2 0 0	—	4,845 3 6	4,847 3 6	294,634 13 1
1886	4,493 0 10	7,733 6 7	193,511 17 3	201,736 4 8	45 0 0	—	3,174 0 11	3,219 0 11	205,955 5 7
Total	63,046 15 5	342,993 1 0	4,183,339 15 1	4,528,379 11 6	117 0 0	40 0 0	73,915 17 4	73,175 17 4	4,602,248 8 10

FIGJ.

There is a falling off in the value of imports and an apparent falling off in the exports in each year since 1883.

With reference to the decrease in the value of imports the Receiver General reports as follows, viz. :—

“The great falling off in the value of total imports is to be attributed to the following causes, mainly :—

- “(a.) A great decrease has taken place in the last two years in the value of machinery imported for manufacturing purposes, and in the value of materials imported for building.
- “(b.) During the last six years the variations in the number of the population have been so considerable that this could not fail to exercise an appreciable influence on the importation and consumption of ordinary articles of merchandise.
- “(c.) Imports have also been affected by the diminished purchasing power resulting from the comparatively low prices obtainable for the exported products of the Colony. Taking the value of exports from the Colony as representing the Colony's power to buy imports, a comparison of 1886 with previous years would be as under ;—

1886	..	-	-	100·00
1885	-	-	-	115·26
1884	-	-	-	121·81
1883	-	-	-	124·17

- “(d.) In considering the value of imports in a form that does not at the same time give the quantities of the articles imported, it has to be remembered that when prices generally are low a greater quantity of articles can be obtained for a given sum than at other times.

“The price of merchandise generally was so much less in 1886 than in the years immediately preceding that this consideration assumes some importance in examining the details of the trade of 1886.”

That the falling off in the amount of the exports during the past three years is only apparent is shown by the Receiver General as follows, viz. :—

“The value of exports is arrived at for the year by estimating the average value of each article in the local market. In former years the declared value at the customs of articles for export was taken into account, but the value thus given was often extravagantly high, so that the value of certain exports was considerably over-estimated in the returns.

Fig.

" The value at which the important articles of export from the Colony have been estimated for 1886, 1885, 1884, and 1883, the years comprised in the returns annexed, is as follows:—

Article.	1886.	1885.	1884.	1883.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Beche-de-mer - a ton	50 0 0	60 0 0	60 0 0	60 0 0
Cocoanuts - a 100	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 4 0
Coffee - a lb.	0 0 6	0 0 6	0 0 6	0 0 11
Copra - a ton	9 10 0	12 6 0	12 6 0	13 0 0
Cotton—				
Sea Island - a ton	121 6 8	121 6 8	121 6 8	} 20 0 0
Kidney - a ton	46 13 4	46 13 4	46 13 4	
Fibre - a bale	10 0 0	11 0 0	11 0 0	10 0 0
Fruit, green - {	a bunch	0 1 6	0 1 6	0 1 6
	a case	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 10 0
Maize - a bushel	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0
Molasses - a gallon	0 0 1½	0 0 3½	0 0 3½	0 3 0
Peanuts - a ton	18 13 4	18 13 4	18 13 4	15 0 0
Pearl shell - a ton	40 0 0	60 0 0	60 0 0	60 0 0
Sugar - a ton	16 0 0	20 0 0	25 0 0	34 0 0

" The total value of the articles mentioned in last paragraph, exported in 1886, amounts to 278,540*l.*, leaving only 4,956*l.*, as the value of all other exports, so that they form about $\frac{1}{57}$ ths of the whole.

" The total value of these articles exported in 1883 was, according to the returns for that year, 345,221*l.* The exports of the same articles in 1886, 1885, and 1884, if valued at the prices of 1883, would be:—

	£		£
1886 at 1883 prices	- 529,927,	at 1886 prices	- 278,540
1885 at " "	- 493,161,	at 1885 " "	- 320,533
1884 at " "	- 482,810,	at 1884 " "	- 339,742
1883 at " "	- 345,221,	at 1883 " "	- 345,221

" The fall in the value of these the only exports of importance from the Colony has been:—

" For 1886 as compared to 1883,	47·4 per cent.
" 1885 " 1883,	35·0 per cent.
" 1884 " 1883,	29·6 per cent. "

It is thus demonstrated that instead of a falling off in exports, as would appear from a comparison of the total value of exports given for each year, there has been a considerable increase, as shown by the following per-centage comparison, taking the exports of 1883 at 100:—

Year 1883 =	-	-	-	100
" 1884 =	-	-	-	139·8
" 1885 =	-	-	-	142·8
" 1886 =	-	-	-	153·5

The principal exports, together with the value and the quantity of each exported, for every year since annexation are shown in the following table:—

F.L.J.

STATEMENT showing the QUANTITY and VALUE of the PRINCIPAL EXPORTS for each Year since the Annexation of the Colony.

Export.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Sugar - { Tons Value, £	96 3,417	265 10,453	463 16,170	546 18,641	785 26,067	583 20,920	684 23,854	1,751 58,557	5,103 176,556	8,730 219,324	10,586 311,729	11,716 397,456
Copra (includ- ing cocoanuts) { Tons Value, £	3,971 40,863	4,178 46,333	6,346 79,965	8,402 112,764	4,146 61,997	7,389 100,708	7,533 97,064	6,979 96,073	6,331 81,773	5,643 69,643	5,535 64,390	5,317 69,564
Fruit - . Value, £	97	129	507	2,003	3,159	5,315	5,470	9,140	13,433	19,710	23,991	28,069
Cotton - { Tons Value, £	233 28,703	192 31,123	130 15,690	175 20,700	373 44,020	366 46,530	298 34,100	371 31,920	314 26,940	160 15,309	44 5,311	52 6,134
Beche-de-mer - { Tons Value, £	113 3,411	66 2,491	634 3,900	704 3,746	473 2,333	194 1,044	14 843	13 770	13 744	134 733	204 1,331	704 3,505
Peanuts - { Tons Value, £	30 293	51 456	1044 2,000	34 367	124 3,477	125 3,514	30 453	117 1,761	133 1,833	149 2,764	137 2,432	160 3,003
Maloe - { Bushels Value, £	70,340 11,366	98,990 11,979	53,184 7,976	45,976 6,396	71,006 10,351	64,073 9,610	34,248 5,137	19,220 3,864	22,350 4,076	13,730 2,544	15,690 3,138	16,328 2,434
Molasses - { Gallons Value, £	-	313	1,850	12,733	26,534	19,944	11,316	26,313	194,316	449,903	151,364	139,180
Coir fibre - { Tons Value, £	69 1,793	106 2,737	99 2,600	117 3,133	86 2,959	183 4,920	94 936	146 1,479	163 1,676	94 1,031	66 733	45 455
Coffee - { Libs. Value, £	-	-	6,730	300	9,000	189,744	104,534	62,393	210,204	84,083	85,339	7,433
	-	-	163	15	400	7,595	4,606	2,753	9,394	2,143	2,131	180

It will be seen from the above table that sugar, which ranked fourth on the list of exports in 1875, now ranks first, and that fruit from the eighth place has risen to the third, while cotton and maize have fallen from the second and third place to the fourth and seventh respectively. The last-mentioned change in great measure is due to the increased attention given to the cultivation of sugar.

It has to be remembered that the export for the year 1886, albeit larger by 50 per cent. than that of 1883, was considerably affected by the hurricane, which destroyed many of the cocoanut and fruit crops and considerably diminished the yield of sugar cane.

There is every reason, however, to hope that the year 1887 will show an increase on the value of these exports, an increase which would be more marked but for the conditions under which sugar manufacturers have to dispose of their produce in a market stocked with beet sugar.

XVI.—NAVIGATION.

There are two ports of entry in the Colony, Suva and Levuka.

The total number and tonnage of merchant vessels, distinguishing between steamers and sailing vessels, entered from abroad at the ports of entry is, for the several years, as under :—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total No. of Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.		
1875 - -	23	8,069	72	9,561	95	17,630
1876 - -	11	3,294	72	12,577	83	15,871
1877 - -	11	5,332	89	14,960	100	20,192
1878 - -	24	9,557	100	13,623	124	23,180
1879 - -	26	12,436	105	16,531	131	28,967
1880 - -	47	17,079	110	15,254	157	32,333
1881 - -	45	16,356	119	19,196	164	35,542
1882 - -	38	17,461	125	24,277	163	41,738
1883 - -	45	36,294	153	32,226	198	68,520
1884 - -	50	40,457	100	22,789	150	63,246
1885 - -	49	33,806	75	20,251	124	54,056
1886 - -	60	34,781	58	19,351	118	54,132

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The nationality of these vessels is set out in the table below, which shows the number and tonnage of vessels under each flag entered inwards from 1875 to 1886 inclusive.

Year.	British.		German.		American.		Danish.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1875	85	14,938	6	2,156	1	230	—	—	—	—
1876	70	10,967	11	4,263	1	40	—	—	—	—
1877	77	13,003	15	4,739	5	1,693	2	777	1	592
1878	94	16,239	25	4,823	1	205	4	1,914	—	—
1879	94	20,521	31	6,900	3	617	—	—	2	989
1880	122	24,929	29	6,145	4	1,630	1	475	1	354
1881	129	27,023	26	7,115	4	989	1	244	—	—
1882	134	32,236	16	6,094	6	2,089	—	—	6	2,908
1883	159	56,496	28	6,618	8	1,974	—	—	6	2,617
1884	129	57,330	14	4,449	7	1,467	—	—	—	—
1885	106	47,554	7	3,189	5	1,347	1	361	2	1,089
1886	106	48,289	10	5,267	2	576	—	—	—	—

(continued)

Year.	Tongan.		Hawaiian.		French.		Bolivian.		Samoa.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1875	—	—	3	306	—	—	—	—	—	—
1876	—	—	—	—	1	381	—	—	—	—
1877	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1878	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1879	1	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1880	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1881	3	100	—	—	1	71	—	—	—	—
1882	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	441	—	—
1883	—	—	1	188	1	637	—	—	—	—
1884	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1885	1	48	—	—	—	—	1	441	1	17
1886	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

XVII.—AGRICULTURE.

FIG.

The total acreage of the Colony is 4,953,920 acres, of which 32,905 acres are under cultivation by Europeans, the acreage under crop being as follows :—

	Acres.		Acres.
Tea -	305	Spices -	25½
Arrowroot -	24	Sugar cane -	10,543½
Bananas -	1,865¾	Tobacco -	28½
Cotton -	95	Tapioca -	47½
Coffee -	309	Yams -	365½
Cocoanuts (Co- pra) -	18,128	Other produce -	601¾
Cinchona -	5		
Maize -	561¼		32,905

The total acreage granted to Europeans up to the end of 1886 was 391,118 acres.

The manufactories in the Colony consist of 12 sugar mills and two fruit preserving establishments.

XVIII.—CRIME.

The following table shows the number of summary convictions for various classes of offences during the year :—

Offences against the person	-	-	312
Malicious injuries to property	-	-	26
Larceny -	-	-	244
Other offences against property	-	-	148
Offences against Revenue Acts, &c.	-	-	218
Offences against Masters and Servants Acts, including Acts relating to indentured coolies	-	-	8,088
Other offences	-	-	345

Total - - 9,381

The following table shows the number of convictions in the Supreme Court during the year :—

Murder	-	-	-	-	7
Manslaughter	-	-	-	-	2
Attempt at murder	-	-	-	-	19
Obtaining money under false pretences	-	-	-	-	4
Riot	-	-	-	-	11
Forgery	-	-	-	-	2
Perjury	-	-	-	-	3
Other offences against the person	-	-	-	-	17
Malicious injuries to property	-	-	-	-	2
Robbery with violence	-	-	-	-	1
Larceny	-	-	-	-	3
Receiving stolen property	-	-	-	-	1
Total	-	-	-	-	72

FIG.

The following table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years :—

Comparative Table showing the Number of Offences, Apprehensions, Convictions, and Acquittals for the last Four Years.

	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrate	1,677	4,053	6,907	11,629
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. For offences against the person -	213	304	293	312
2. For larceny - - - -	112	241	168	244
3. For offences against property other than larceny - - - -	75	69	63	174
4. For other offences - - - -	780	2,188	4,753	8,578
5. Drunkenness - - - -	113	101	67	73
The number of convictions in the superior courts :—				
1. For offences against the person -	24	8	15	57
2. For larceny - - - -	—	1	—	3
3. For offences against property other than larceny - - - -	15	1	3	12
4. For other offences - - - -	3	6	—	—
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	851	1,100	1,616	2,155
2. In the superior courts - - -	6	18	9	24

It will be observed that about $\frac{1}{4}$ ths of the convictions were for offences against the labour laws, which amount to nearly double the number recorded for the year 1885. A growing spirit of turbulence and insubordination was evinced by Indian immigrants during the year, which lead to the great number of prosecutions recorded. The passing of Ordinance No. XIV. of 1886 had a most salutary effect in repressing this state of matters, and hence recourse to the provision of that law has much fallen off. Indian immigrants in great measure furnish the criminal population of the Colony.

XIX.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

There are two public hospitals in the Colony, one at Suva and one at Levuka.

The number of cases treated therein during the year was 919. The number of deaths was 73.

The following table specifies the diseases treated, together with the deaths occurring, viz. :—

FSL

Disease treated.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Phthisis - - - - -	76	41
Dysentery - - - - -	227	14
Pyelitis - - - - -	1	1
Chronic Bright's disease - - - - -	1	1
Fracture of skull - - - - -	1	1
Heart disease - - - - -	6	1
Anæmia - - - - -	5	1
Pneumonia - - - - -	15	3
Abscess - - - - -	12	1
Infantile marasmus - - - - -	1	1
Cerebritis - - - - -	1	1
Gangrene of mouth - - - - -	1	1
Abscess of liver - - - - -	1	1
Cerebro spinal meningitis - - - - -	5	2
Peritonitis - - - - -	2	1
Acute yellow atrophy of the liver - - - - -	1	1
Diarrhœa - - - - -	42	—
Cataract - - - - -	3	—
Blindness - - - - -	2	—
Debility - - - - -	17	—
Wounds - - - - -	4	—
Caries of tarsal bones - - - - -	1	—
Lunacy - - - - -	2	—
Fistula - - - - -	4	—
Varicella - - - - -	2	—
Hydrocele - - - - -	3	—
Hemiplegia - - - - -	2	—
Constipation - - - - -	14	—
Hæmaturia - - - - -	1	—
Hepatitis - - - - -	1	—
Bronchitis - - - - -	12	—
Pleurisy - - - - -	2	—
Locomotor Ataxia - - - - -	2	—
Fractures - - - - -	3	—
Burns - - - - -	1	—
Ophthalmia - - - - -	2	—
Ascites - - - - -	3	—
Colic - - - - -	1	—
Ulcers - - - - -	52	—
Fever - - - - -	105	—
Ringworm - - - - -	20	—
Swollen groin - - - - -	1	—
Hæmoptysis - - - - -	2	—
Piles - - - - -	1	—
Sickness of pregnancy - - - - -	1	—
Phymosis - - - - -	11	—
Venereal diseases - - - - -	136	—
Scrofula derna - - - - -	2	—
Hernia - - - - -	1	—
Comeritis - - - - -	3	—
Deafness - - - - -	1	—
Ulcerative stomatitis - - - - -	3	—
Ulcer of cornea - - - - -	3	—
Iritis - - - - -	1	—
Scabies - - - - -	3	—
Warts on eyelids, with loss of eye - - - - -	1	—
Elephantiasis scrotum - - - - -	3	—
Enlarged glands of neck - - - - -	2	—
Suppuration of mamma - - - - -	1	—
Synovitis - - - - -	5	—
Œdema of feet - - - - -	6	—
Sprained wrist - - - - -	1	—
Aneurism - - - - -	2	—

Fiji.

Disease treated.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Paraplegia - - - - -	2	—
Coko - - - - -	2	—
Necrosis of thigh - - - - -	1	—
Shingles - - - - -	1	—
Conjunctivitis - - - - -	5	—
Varicocele - - - - -	1	—
Lumbago - - - - -	3	—
Bruises - - - - -	1	—
Smashed hand - - - - -	1	—
Congestion of lungs - - - - -	1	—
Cystitis - - - - -	1	—
Inflammation of muscles of thigh - - - - -	1	—
Rheumatism - - - - -	11	—
Carles of spine - - - - -	1	—
Rheumatic fever - - - - -	1	—
Contraction of flexor muscles of leg - - - - -	1	—
Angina pectoris - - - - -	4	—
Amputation of toe - - - - -	1	—
" finger - - - - -	1	—
Bronchial catarrh - - - - -	1	—
Cika - - - - -	1	—
Contusion of back - - - - -	1	—
Continued fever - - - - -	1	—
Eczema - - - - -	4	—
Esrache - - - - -	1	—
Enlarged testicle - - - - -	1	—
Itch - - - - -	3	—
Inflammation of breast - - - - -	1	—
" shoulder - - - - -	1	—
" wrist - - - - -	1	—
Navus - - - - -	1	—
Paraphimosis - - - - -	1	—
Rheumatoid arthritis - - - - -	1	—
Scalp wounds - - - - -	2	—
Tumours of cerebellum - - - - -	1	1
Typhoid fever - - - - -	1	—
Unclassified - - - - -	5	—

XX.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The number of patients in the asylum at the beginning of the year was -	16
There have been admitted during the year -	6
Discharged—	
Cured - - - - -	4
" of periodical attack - - - - -	2
Improved - - - - -	1
Removed to India - - - - -	4
	11
Died - - - - -	5
Daily average number - - - - -	10·33
Remaining in asylum at the end of year—	
Quiet chronic - - - - -	3
Melancholy and suicidal - - - - -	2
Idiotic - - - - -	1
	6

XXI.—METEOROLOGY.

Fiji.

The following is a summary of the meteorological observations taken by the Government meteorological observer during the year :—

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS taken at Suva, Fiji. Means for year 1886, and extremes taken at Suva and Levuka for 11 years ending 31st December 1886. Instruments 10 feet above sea-level. All corrections applied.

*Monthly Means of Barometer Readings during Year ending
31st December 1886.*

January -	-	-	-	-	29·865
February	-	-	-	-	29·836
March -	-	-	-	-	29·831
April -	-	-	-	-	29·981
May -	-	-	-	-	29·997
June -	-	-	-	-	30·065
July -	-	-	-	-	30·038
August -	-	-	-	-	30·050
September	-	-	-	-	30·044
October	-	-	-	-	30·018
November	-	-	-	-	29·952
December	-	-	-	-	29·867

*Highest and Lowest Readings of Barometer during Year ending
31st December 1886.*

Highest.

January 14th	-	-	-	-	30·018
February 1st	-	-	-	-	29·944
March 31st	-	-	-	-	29·997
April 15th and 23rd	-	-	-	-	30·020
May 21st	-	-	-	-	30·069
June 19th	-	-	-	-	30·138
July 5th -	-	-	-	-	30·152
August 27th	-	-	-	-	30·135
September 21st	-	-	-	-	30·163
October 8th	-	-	-	-	30·137
November 2nd	-	-	-	-	30·059
December 8th	-	-	-	-	29·979

F.W.

Lowest.

January 5th	-	-	-	-	29.454
February 15th	-	-	-	-	29.667
March 4th	-	-	-	-	28.878
April 2nd and 21st	-	-	-	-	29.943
May 13th	-	-	-	-	29.914
June 3rd	-	-	-	-	30.015
July 23rd	-	-	-	-	29.873
August 2nd	-	-	-	-	29.887
September 8th	-	-	-	-	29.912
October 21st	-	-	-	-	29.938
November 9th	-	-	-	-	29.859
December 23rd	-	-	-	-	29.780

Highest reading of barometer during 11 years ending 31st December 1886 : 30.274 on 23rd October 1882.

Lowest reading of barometer during 11 years ending 31st December, 1886 : 28.878 on 4th March 1886.

Monthly Means of Temperature during Year ending 31st December 1886.

January	-	-	-	-	81
February	-	-	-	-	84
March	-	-	-	-	80.8
April	-	-	-	-	79
May	-	-	-	-	78
June	-	-	-	-	75
July	-	-	-	-	73.8
August	-	-	-	-	74.9
September	-	-	-	-	76.7
October	-	-	-	-	79.2
November	-	-	-	-	79
December	-	-	-	-	81.5

*Highest and Lowest Temperature during Year ending 31st December 1886.***Fiji.****Highest.**

January 26th	-	-	-	86
February 18th and 19th	-	-	-	90
March 2nd and 3rd	-	-	-	87
April 12th and 17th	-	-	-	84
May 14th	-	-	-	85
June 3rd, 4th, 5th 6th, 25th, 26th	-	-	-	80
July 3rd, 4th, 5th, 13th	-	-	-	80
August 19th	-	-	-	84
September 3rd	-	-	-	82.5
October 26th	-	-	-	85
November 6th	-	-	-	85
December 22nd	-	-	-	92

Lowest.

January 9th and 18th	-	-	-	71
February 5th	-	-	-	72
March 24th, 30th, 31st	-	-	-	71
April 28th	-	-	-	67
May 30th and 31st	-	-	-	66
June 20th and 21st	-	-	-	65
July 31st	-	-	-	65
August 5th	-	-	-	65
September 11th	-	-	-	67
October 3rd	-	-	-	69
November 21st	-	-	-	65
December 14th	-	-	-	67

Highest temperature during 11 years ending 31st December 1886: 94 on 25th February 1882.

Lowest temperature during 11 years ending 31st December 1886: 60 on 7th August 1884.

Greatest daily Rainfall during Year ending 31st December 1886.

January 20th	-	-	-	1.58
February 25th	-	-	-	2.20
March 27th	-	-	-	4.52
April 7th	-	-	-	1.93
May 13th	-	-	-	1.20
June 10th	-	-	-	0.75
July 6th	-	-	-	2.69
August 15th	-	-	-	3.76
September 14th	-	-	-	2.18
October 11th	-	-	-	1.40
November 8th	-	-	-	3.98
December 1st	-	-	-	1.43

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Fiji.*Monthly Rainfall during Year ending 31st December 1886.*

January	-	-	-	-	5.37
February	-	-	-	-	8.76
March	-	-	-	-	17.96
April	-	-	-	-	5.36
May	-	-	-	-	4.48
June	-	-	-	-	2.95
July	-	-	-	-	4.53
August	-	-	-	-	5.04
September	-	-	-	-	7.66
October	-	-	-	-	5.33
November	-	-	-	-	9.61
December	-	-	-	-	8.02

Total for year - - - - 85.07

Greatest daily rainfall during 11 years ending 31st December 1886, 7.92 on 30th October 1880;

J. D. W. VAUGHAN, F.R.M.S.,
Government Meteorological Observer.

Fiji, 9th June 1887. JOHN B. THURSTON,
Colonial Secretary.

REPORT
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REPORT ON CANADIAN FRUITS.

No. 22.

Governor-General the MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE to
Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Cascapedia, New Richmond,
July 27, 1887.

SIR,

WITH reference to Mr. Stanhope's Circular Despatch of the 17th November last, transmitting, with other papers, a copy of a letter from the Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, calling attention to the interest which has been awakened in regard to tropical and other fruits by the display in the several courts at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and enclosing a list of questions respecting Colonial fruits, which he suggests should be answered as fully as possible by the Colonial Governments I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of

an approved Minute of the Privy Council, submitting a report prepared by Professor Saunders, Director of the Experimental Farms of Canada, containing categorical answers to a series of questions for the purpose of obtaining information respecting Colonial fruits.

REPORT
ON
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FRUITS.
—

The Right Hon.
Sir Henry Holland,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

CERTIFIED COPY of a REPORT of a COMMITTEE of the HONOURABLE THE PRIVY COUNCIL FOR CANADA, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the 19th July 1887.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a Circular Despatch, dated 17th November 1886, from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, transmitting a copy of two Parliamentary papers containing correspondence respecting the question of diplomatic and consular assistance to British trade abroad, and also transmitting a copy of a letter from the Board of Trade and its enclosures on this subject, in which reference is also made to the proposal of that department to publish an official trade journal for the purpose of affording early information respecting actual and contemplated changes in Customs tariffs and regulations, as well as other useful information as to trade generally; also copy of a letter from the Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, calling attention to the interest which has been awakened in regard to tropical and other fruits by the display in the several courts at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and enclosing a list of questions respecting Colonial fruits, which he suggests should be answered as fully as possible by the Colonial Governments.

The Minister of Agriculture to whom the Despatch and enclosures were referred to report relative to fruits asked for in the letter from the Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, submits the accompanying report of Professor Saunders, Director of the Experimental Farms of Canada, containing categorical answers to a series of questions for the purpose of obtaining information respecting Colonial fruits.

The Committee advise that your Excellency be moved to transmit a copy of the report herewith furnished to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in answer to inquiries made in his Circular Despatch of the 17th November last.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE,
Clerk, Privy Council.

REPORT
ON
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—

SIR,

Ottawa, Canada, January 25, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the following memorandum in reply to the queries submitted to me from the Department of Agriculture.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. SAUNDERS, F.R.S.C., F.L.S., F.C.S.,
Director of the Experimental Farm of Canada.

To the Hon.

The Minister of Agriculture.

MEMORANDUM.

Query 1.—Please give a list of both local and scientific names of the chief fruits grown in the Colony in order of importance.

In replying to this query it has been thought best to append a brief description of each important commercial variety, so as to indicate more clearly their special points of merit. Differences of opinion exist as to the relative value of the several fruits referred to, owing partly to variety of taste, and partly to the modifying influences of situation, soil, and climate; hence the accompanying list must be regarded as approximative rather than authoritative in this particular.

THE APPLE.

Baldwin.

A handsome apple of American origin. Free, vigorous, and productive. Fruit medium to large, nearly covered with red. Flesh juicy, crisp and of fair flavour. An excellent keeper, and although variable in quality usually commands a good price in the market. Season, November to March. Is grown largely for shipment to Great Britain.

Golden Russet.

Also of American origin. An apple of fine quality and very productive. Fruit medium in size, dull yellow, thickly sprinkled with russet. Flesh juicy, crisp, and high flavoured. Season, November to February. Extensively grown for foreign shipment.

Northern Spy.

Of American origin. One of the best winter apples, of excellent quality either for dessert or cooking. Fruit of large size, pale yellow colour, with stripes of purplish red, covered with a thin white bloom. Season, December to May. Much grown for both home market and export. The trees are slow in coming into bearing, but afterwards produce regular crops.

King. (King of Tomkins Co.)

Believed to be of American origin. A large apple of a deep yellow colour, splashed and shaded with red. Flesh yellowish, juicy, with a rich, aromatic flavour. Season, November to February. Tree a strong grown and moderately productive.

Ribston Pippin.

A highly-esteemed English apple of medium size. Colour greenish yellow with some russet about the stem, and clouded with dull red on the side exposed to the sun. Flesh deep yellow, crisp, with a rich aromatic flavour. Season, November to March. Tree forms a spreading top, and is a variable bearer, for which reason it is not largely grown.

Canada Reinette.

Probably of Canadian origin. A large and handsome apple, greenish shaded with brown, and sprinkled with dots and patches of russet. Flesh nearly white, rather firm, juicy, with a sub-acid flavour. Season, January to April. Tree vigorous and productive.

Red Canada.

Origin unknown. A slender growing tree but productive. Fruit of medium size, yellow shaded with deep red, sprinkled with grey and greenish dots. Flesh white, tender, crisp, and juicy, with a delicate flavour. Season, January to April.

Rambo.

A popular early winter apple, valuable either for the table or kitchen. Size medium, colour yellowish white, marbled with pale yellow and red, and speckled with large brownish dots. Flesh nearly white, tender, rich, and mildly subacid. Season, October to December.

Colvert.

An old variety, of uncertain origin. Fruit large greenish yellow, striped and shaded with dull red. Flesh greenish white, tender, subacid. Season, October, November. Tree vigorous and very productive.

Wagener.

An American variety which originated in New York. Tree an early and abundant bearer. Fruit of medium size, dull yellow shaded with crimson, flesh yellowish white, fine grained, crisp, juicy, and of good flavour. A good dessert fruit. Season, November to February.

Grimes' Golden.

This is an American apple which originated in Virginia. Tree vigorous, hardy, and productive. Fruit of medium size, golden yellow with pale yellow flesh; crisp, juicy, rich, and spicy. Season, December to March. An excellent dessert apple.

Vandevere.

An American sort. Fruit medium size, colour pale yellow, striped and sprinkled with greenish dots. Flesh yellowish, tender, with a rich aromatic flavour. Season, November to February.

Rhode Island Greening.

An American apple. A vigorous strong grower and productive. Fruit large dark green, becoming greenish yellow when ripe. Flesh yellowish, tender, crisp, juicy, and subacid. Much appreciated as a cooking apple.

Swaar.

An American variety which originated in New York. Size medium to large, colour greenish yellow, becoming almost golden when ripe, dotted with brown specks and marbled with russet around the stem. Flesh yellowish, fine grained, tender, and aromatic. Of excellent quality. Season, November to March.

Roxbury Russet.

Originated in Massachusetts. Tree a healthy vigorous grower and very productive. Fruit of medium size, green russet, becoming brownish yellow when ripe. Flesh greenish white, moderately juicy, and of fair quality. A long keeper, which, if well kept, may be marketed in March or June.

Pomme Grise.

A small russet apple, probably of French origin. Tree a medium grower and good bearer. Colour of fruit grey or cinnamon russet. Flesh tender, rich, and high flavoured. An excellent dessert apple. Season, December to February.

Cox's Orange Pippin.

An English apple much esteemed as a dessert fruit. Tree rather slow in growth, but a good bearer. Fruit under medium size, yellowish, splashed, and mottled with crimson. Flesh yellowish, juicy, rich, and high flavoured. Season, to November (*sic*).

Dominie.

Origin unknown. Tree hardy, a rapid grower, and abundant bearer. Fruit of medium size, colour greenish yellow, splashed with red. Flesh white, tender, and juicy, with a pleasant flavour. A long-keeping winter fruit. In season from December to April.

Ben Davis.

Of American origin. Tree very hardy, a free grower, and abundant bearer. Fruit medium to large, almost covered with red. Flesh white, moderately juicy, subacid. An apple of fine appearance and a good keeper, but inferior in quality. Season, December to March.

Westfield seek no Further.

An old and highly-esteemed American variety. Fruit medium to large in size, colour dull red on a pale green ground. Flesh white, fine grained, tender, and high flavoured. Season, October to January.

Fallawater.

Originated in Pennsylvania. Tree a strong grower and productive. A large apple of a yellowish green colour, shaded with dull red and sprinkled with large grey dots. Flesh juicy, crisp, subacid. Used chiefly for cooking. Season, November to February.

Wealthy.

An American variety which originated in Minnesota. Tree hardy, a vigorous grower and productive. Fruit of medium size, colour deep rich crimson on a pale yellow ground. Flesh white, stained with red, tender, juicy, and of good flavour. A variety which is coming greatly into favour. Season, November to February.

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Yellow Bellflower.

An American variety which originated in New Jersey. Tree a moderate grower and a regular and excellent bearer. Fruit large oblong, of a handsome yellow colour, sometimes with a blush on the sunny side. Flesh tender, juicy, crisp, and subacid. Season, November to February. This variety is extensively grown in Nova Scotia under the name of "Bishop's Pippin."

Jonathan.

Originated in Pennsylvania. Tree hardy, a moderate grower, and productive. Fruit of medium size, ground colour a light yellow, nearly covered with a brilliant dark red. Flesh white, sometimes pinkish, tender, juicy, with a sprightly flavour. Season, November to February.

Talman's Sweet.

A native of Rhode Island. A hardy tree, very vigorous and productive. Size of fruit medium, colour light yellow, generally with a dark line running from stem to calyx. Flesh white, fine grained, sweet. A profitable orchard apple, much esteemed for baking. Season, November to April.

Cayuga Red Streak.

A Connecticut apple. Tree a good grower and regular grower. A very large and handsome apple of medium quality. Colour greenish yellow marbled with stripes of purplish red. An excellent cooking sort. Season, October to January.

Fameuse.

A justly-celebrated Canadian apple which grows well in many parts of the Dominion, but attains great perfection in the neighbourhood of Montreal. Tree moderately vigorous, hardy, and very productive. Fruit of medium size, colour greenish yellow covered with fine deep red. Flesh remarkably white, tender, juicy, and high flavoured. A handsome and popular dessert fruit. Season, October to December.

Gravenstein.

An apple of German origin. Tree vigorous and productive, an early bearer. Fruit medium to large, colour bright yellow when ripe, dashed and streaked with red and orange. Flesh tender, crisp, juicy, and high flavoured. Successfully and extensively grown for export in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, where it is produced in great perfection. Season, September, October.

Alexander.

A very large and showy apple of Russian origin. Colour pale orange, brilliantly streaked and marked with bright red. Flesh yellowish white, crisp, and juicy, chiefly used for cooking. Tree hardy and productive. Season, October, November.

Maiden's Blush.

An American apple which originated in New Jersey. A very beautiful fruit of medium size with a delicate waxy appearance. Colour pale yellow with a bright red or crimson cheek. Flesh white, tender, subacid. Tree a rapid grower and bears large crops. Season, September, October. An excellent apple for cooking or drying.

Keswick Codlin.

A well-known English cooking apple, which is successfully grown in many parts of the Dominion. Tree a moderate grower and an early and abundant bearer. Fruit above medium size, yellow. Flesh yellowish white, juicy, subacid. Season, September and October.

Duchess of Oldenburgh.

A handsome apple of Russian origin, and one of the most profitable sorts in cultivation. The tree is vigorous, an early, regular, and abundant bearer. Fruit of medium size, of a golden yellow colour streaked with red, and with a blush bloom on the surface. Flesh sprightly, juicy, subacid. Season, August and September. Extensively cultivated for the home market, and of late has been exported in considerable quantities.

Red Astrachan.

Another beautiful apple of Russian origin. Tree a free grower and an abundant bearer. Fruit medium size, almost entirely covered with a rich red colour, and coated with a whitish bloom. Flesh white, crisp, juicy, with a rich acid flavour. Season, late in July and August. Extensively grown for market.

Chenango Strawberry.

An American apple which originated in New York. Tree a vigorous grower and productive. Fruit of medium size, colour whitish mottled and splashed with light and dark crimson. Flesh

white, tender, juicy, and mildly subacid. Season, September and October. Cultivated chiefly for the home market.

Montreal Peach.

Tree a fair grower and good bearer. Fruit of medium size, very beautiful; colour pale yellow and waxy looking; sometimes with a pretty pale reddish cheek. Flesh white, tender, juicy, and of good quality. Season, September. Is much grown in the Province of Quebec for local markets. Being tender and easily bruised, this apple is not adapted for shipping to distant points.

THE PEAR.

Pears have been grown in some parts of Ontario for many years past in excess of the local demand, the surplus having found a ready market in the large cities of the United States. The earlier sorts could not be exported to Great Britain without careful selection and cold storage, but the late ripening varieties might be easily exported, and would no doubt bring remunerative prices. In British Columbia, where the trees appear to be entirely free from blight and do not suffer from frost, pears are grown in the greatest abundance, and this branch of fruit industry might be extended indefinitely in that Province with much profit.

Winter Nelis.

A winter pear of Flemish origin. Tree hardy, thrifty, and fairly productive. Fruit under medium size, colour yellowish green, covered more or less with russet. Flesh yellowish white, fine grained, melting, with a rich aromatic flavour. Season, December, January.

Beurre Gris d'Hiver Nouveau.

A winter pear of very good quality. Tree moderately productive. Fruit of medium size, obtuse pyriform, colour golden russet, with a reddish cheek. Flesh juicy, melting, sweet, and high flavoured. Season, November to February.

Beurre d'Anjou.

An excellent pear of French origin. Tree of vigorous growth and productive. Fruit large, obtuse pyriform, colour dull green, sometimes faintly shaded with crimson and sprinkled with russet brown and crimson dots. Flesh whitish, juicy, melting, with a pleasant vinous flavour. Season, October and November.

Beurre Hardy.

Tree vigorous grown, hardy, and productive. Fruit large, obtuse pyriform, colour greenish russet, sometimes shaded with brownish red. Flesh buttery, melting, with a brisk vinous flavour. Season, September and October.

Beurre Superfin.

A French variety. Tree healthy, hardy, and a fair bearer. Fruit medium to large, yellow, sometimes shaded with crimson on the sunny side, and thickly sprinkled with minute dots. Flesh very juicy, subacid, with a brisk agreeable flavour. Season, October.

Mount Vernon.

Originated in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Fruit medium in size, obtuse pyriform, colour yellowish russet, becoming brownish red in the sun. Flesh yellowish, juicy, melting, with a pleasant flavour. Season, November, December.

White Doyenne.

This is an old French variety, much esteemed. Tree a moderate grower and heavy bearer. Fruit of medium size, obovate, colour pale yellow, with sometimes a red cheek in the sun. Flesh white, fine grained, melting, sweet, with a high rich flavour. Season, October to December.

Howell.

An American pear which originated in Connecticut. A vigorous grower and highly productive. Fruit medium to large, rounded pyriform, colour yellow, with small patches and dots of russet. Flesh whitish, juicy, melting, and of fair quality. Season, September, October.

Sheldon.

An American pear which originated in New York. A hardy, vigorous, and productive tree. Fruit medium in size, roundish obovate, colour yellow russet with a greenish tint, becoming sometimes reddish brown in the sun. Flesh whitish, very juicy, sweet, melting, with a rich aromatic flavour. Season, October.

Louise bon de Jersey.

This variety originated in France. The tree is a vigorous grower and productive. Fruit medium to large, oblong pyriform, pale green with a brownish red cheek, dotted with grey. Flesh greenish white, juicy, melting, somewhat astringent, with a rich flavour. Season, September and October.

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Seckel.

This is, without doubt, the richest and highest-flavoured pear grown. An American variety which originated near Philadelphia. The tree is vigorous, hardy, and productive. Fruit small, obovate, dull yellowish russet, sometimes with a red russet cheek. Flesh whitish, very juicy, sweet, and melting, with a very rich spicy flavour. Season, September, October.

Beurre Clairgeau.

A very productive and early bearing variety from France. Fruit large pyriform with unequal sides, colour dull yellow, shaded with orange and crimson, and thickly covered with russet dots. Flesh yellowish, buttery, somewhat granular, with a perfumed vinous flavour; of fair quality and handsome appearance. Season, October to December.

Beurre Diel.

A pear of Belgian origin, vigorous and productive. Fruit large, varying from obovate to obtuse pyriform. Skin yellow when ripe, marked with brown dots and marblings of russet. Flesh yellowish white, rather coarse grained, but sweet, rich, and almost melting. Season, October to December.

Dr. Reeder.

A seedling of Winter Nelis, which was grown in New York. Tree very healthy, hardy, and vigorous, and remarkably free from blight. Fruit small to medium, obtuse pyriform, colour yellowish russet. Flesh slightly granular, juicy, melting, sweet, and high flavoured. Season, October, November.

Duchesse d'Angouleme.

A popular variety which originated in France. Tree a vigorous grower and good bearer. Fruit very large, obovate, with an uneven surface, colour greenish yellow, spotted and streaked with russet. Flesh white, very juicy, sweet, with a rich flavour. Season, October.

Goodale.

An American pear which originated in Maine. Tree hardy, a vigorous grower, and productive. Fruit large, obtuse pyriform, yellow, with patches and dots of russet. Flesh whitish, melting, sweet, and high flavoured. Season, October.

Beurre Box.

A pear of the very highest quality, of Belgian origin. Fruit large and handsome, pyriform, dark yellow, with a light coating of russet. Flesh white, fine grained, melting, with a rich delicious flavour. Season, September, October.

Doyenne Boussock.

Also a Belgian pear. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit obovate, inclining to pyriform, colour deep yellow, netted with russet and with a reddish cheek. Flesh juicy, melting, sweet, aromatic. Season, September, October.

Flemish Beauty.

Supposed to be of Belgian origin. Tree a strong grower, very hardy and productive. Fruit large, obtuse pyriform, pale yellow, nearly covered with patches of light russet. Flesh yellowish white, juicy, melting, sweet and rich, with a slight musky flavour. Season, September.

Bartlett or Williams' Bonchretien.

One of the most popular of all pears, an English variety, which was early introduced into America. The tree is a rapid grower and an abundant bearer. Fruit of large size, pyriform, yellow when ripe. Flesh white, fair grained, buttery, sweet, juicy, and high flavoured. Season, September.

Clapp's Favourite.

An American pear which originated in Massachusetts. Tree a vigorous grower and an abundant bearer. Fruit large pyriform, pale yellow, faintly marbled and splashed with crimson where exposed to the sun. Flesh white, fine grained, melting, juicy, rich, and sweet. Season, September.

Tyson.

A pear of American origin, a chance seedling found near Philadelphia. Tree a vigorous grower and highly productive. Fruit of medium size, pyriform, deep yellow, slightly russeted with numerous brown dots, and with a more or less crimson cheek. Flesh juicy, melting, very sweet, with an aromatic flavour. Season, August, September.

THE PLUM.

Plums are grown successfully in different parts of the Provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and British Columbia; they are also grown in considerable quantities in the western part of Ontario, especially along the shores of Lake Huron, in the district about Goderich, Meaford, and Owen Sound. Many thousands of bushels are sent annually to other points in the Dominion, and large quantities are forwarded to the large cities in the United States. The plums are usually picked before fully ripe, and in this condition and while gradually ripening they will bear transportation and handling for many days without

serious injury. The following varieties are among those most esteemed :—

Lombard.

An American plum which originated in New York. The tree is a vigorous grower and an abundant bearer. Fruit of medium size, violet red with a pale bloom. Flesh deep yellow, juicy and pleasant, of medium quality. Season, late in August. One of the most profitable market varieties.

Imperial Gage.

A plum of American origin, raised in Flushing, New York. Tree a rapid grower and most abundant bearer. Fruit above medium size, oval, pale green tinged with yellow, and covered with white bloom. Flesh greenish, juicy, melting, sweet, and rich. Season, early in September.

Green Gage.

A European variety of the highest quality. Tree a slow grower, but an abundant bearer. Fruit rather small, round, green or yellowish green. Flesh pale green, melting, juicy, and of a luscious flavour. Season, middle of August to September.

McLaughlin.

An American variety of first quality, which originated in Maine. Tree hardy, vigorous, and productive. Fruit medium to large, nearly round, with a thin tender skin, yellow, dotted and marbled with red on the sunny side, and covered with a thin bloom. Flesh yellow, juicy, sweet, and high flavoured. Season, last of August.

Pond's Seedling.

Of English origin. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit very large, oval, and of a bright red colour with a whitish bloom. Flesh yellow, a little coarse, juicy, and sweet, but not of first quality. Season, middle of September.

Duane's Purple.

An American plum which originated in New York. Tree a vigorous grower and productive. Fruit large, oval or oblong, swollen on one side of the suture, of a reddish purple colour with yellow specks, and a lilac bloom. Flesh dark yellowish, juicy, sprightly, and moderately sweet. Season, middle to end of August.

Bradshaw.

Tree a vigorous grower and heavy bearer. Fruit, large obovate, of a dark reddish purple colour covered with a light blue bloom.

Flesh yellowish, rather coarse, juicy, sweet, and pleasant. Season, August.

Columbia.

An American variety which originated in New York. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit very large, nearly globular, brownish purple with a blue bloom. Flesh orange coloured, not very juicy, but sweet and rich when fully ripe. Season, August and September.

Sharpe's Emperor (Victoria).

An English variety. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit large, nearly oval, colour light lilac and purple on a yellow ground, covered with lilac bloom. Flesh yellow, coarse, not very juicy or sugary. Of medium quality. Season, middle of September.

Washington.

An American variety which originated in New York. Tree a strong grower but only a moderate bearer. Fruit large, nearly round, of a deep yellow colour, with a pale crimson blush or crimson dots. Flesh yellow, fine grained, sweet, and luscious. Season, middle to end of August.

Prince's Yellow Gage.

An American plum which originated on Long Island, New York. Tree hardy and productive. Fruit of medium size, a deep yellow colour, with a whitish bloom. Flesh yellow, rich, and sweet. Season early in August.

Yellow Egg.

A European plum. Tree a fine grower and good bearer. Fruit very large, oval, yellow with numerous white dots and a thin white bloom. Flesh yellow, rather acid until fully ripe. Highly esteemed as a cooking and preserving plum. Season late in August.

Coe's Golden Drop

An English variety. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit large, oval, with a well-marked suture, pale yellow, with dark red spots on the sunny side. Flesh yellow, rather firm, adheres to the stone, rich, sweet, and of good flavour. Season, late in August.

THE QUINCE.

Quinces are grown in the Niagara Peninsula, but not in any large quantity and only for home market. The varieties chiefly cultivated are the Orange Quince and Rea's Mammoth.

THE CHERRY.

The cherry succeeds well in most of the milder sections in Ontario and Quebec, yields large and regular crops in some parts of Nova Scotia, and all the varieties succeed when in British Columbia.

Of the Bigarreau or Heart cherries the following are cultivated in Ontario, the home market being supplied chiefly from those districts adjacent to the great lakes, particularly along the Niagara peninsula :—Black Eagle, Black Tartarian, Downer's Late Red, Governor Wood, Knight's Early Black, Napoleon Bigarreau, and Tradescant's Black Heart.

Of the Duke's and Morello's those mostly cultivated are early Richmond, May Duke, English Morello, and the common Red or Kentish cherry.

Several varieties are grown in great abundance in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia, particularly about the Bear river district. They are said to be uniformly productive and profitable. They are chiefly seedling fruits, the relative qualities of which have not yet been fully determined.

In British Columbia all varieties of the cherry grow most luxuriantly and produce heavy crops.

THE APRICOT.

The Apricot is cultivated to a very limited extent in Ontario, chiefly along the Niagara peninsula. This fruit could be grown in large quantities in British Columbia where it succeeds well. Breda, Early Golden, and Moorpark are the varieties which have been chiefly tested.

THE NEOTARINE.

This fruit is only occasionally met with, grown in the Niagara district and on the shores of Lake Huron about Goderich.

THE PEACH.

The peach is grown to a considerable extent along the borders of Lakes Erie, Huron, and Ontario, but especially in the Niagara peninsula. The crop is almost entirely consumed in the home market. The varieties chiefly grown are the Early and Late Crawford, Early Canada, Honest John, Early Beatrice, Hale's Early, Lemon Cling, and Royal George.

THE GRAPE.

But a few years ago it was held that the climate of Canada was quite unsuited to grape culture ; that the winter season was too cold, and the summer too short, to permit of the healthy growth of the vine and the ripening of the fruit. Now many hundreds of tons are annually grown, and the Canadian market, which was

formerly supplied almost entirely from the United States, is now cheaply and abundantly furnished with home-grown fruit. This change has been mainly brought about by the introduction of new and earlier ripening sorts, produced from native wild grapes crossed with foreign varieties. The following are among the most popular and widely cultivated sorts, all of which are grown in the open air and ripened without artificial aid:—Agawam, Barry, Clinton, Concord, Delaware, Massasoit, Merrimac, Wilder, Moore's Early, Worden, Burmet, Brighton, Niagara, Early Victor, Jessica.

THE GOOSEBERRY.

English gooseberries are not generally grown with much success in Canada, for the reason that the berries mildew before they reach maturity and drop from the bunches; but there are several excellent sorts of a smaller size which do exceedingly well and bear large crops of very good fruit. These have been produced by improving the native gooseberries by cross-fertilising with the larger English varieties and by selection. Chief among these are Downing's Seedling, Smith's Improved, Houghton's Seedling, and American Seedling, all of which are very prolific, are grown in large quantities for the home market, and freely used by the people of Canada.

THE BLACK CURRANT.

This fruit is also grown with universal success. The Black Naples is the variety chiefly cultivated, but the wild black currants of the North-west, *Ribes hudsonianum* and *R. floridum*, are highly esteemed throughout Manitoba and the territories, and *Hudsonianum* is being cultivated by many with success. It is believed to be a heavier bearer than the Black Naples; has a stronger flavour when eaten fresh, but when made into jelly or preserve is fully equal in quality to the Black Naples.

THE RED AND WHITE CURRANT.

Many varieties of these useful fruits are grown with much success in every part of the Dominion. They succeed not only in the Maritime and Central Provinces and British Columbia, but also remarkably well in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, bearing large crops, which are grown chiefly for family use, and to supply the local markets.

Those most esteemed, Victoria, Fay's Prolific, Versailles, Cherry, Red Dutch, and White Grape.

THE RASPBERRY.

Many sorts of this useful fruit are cultivated for market in Canada, and also for canning. The red varieties, most hardy and productive, owe their parentage to the native red raspberry, *Rubus strigosus*, from which they have been produced by cross-fertilisation and selection. The European sorts, derived from *Rubus idaeus*, are not uniformly hardy, in some localities they do well, but in others they suffer from the climate, the canes being partially winter-killed when low temperatures prevail in the absence of deep snow.

The red varieties chiefly grown are Turner Cuthbert, Philadelphia, Brandy Wine, Clarke, Niagara, and Shaffer's Colossal. Of white varieties, Caroline and Bunckle's Orange.

The black cap raspberries are derived from *Rubus occidentalis*, and the following are among those most esteemed:—Mammoth Cluster, Gregg Tyler, Ohio Hilbon, and Davison's Thomless.

Several varieties of the large cultivated blackberry succeeded well in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia. The Kittatinny and Wilson's Early bear heavy crops in some localities, but the Snyder, although not quite so large, is more generally grown on account of its greater hardiness and uniform productiveness. Many other sorts are being tested in different parts of the Dominion.

THE STRAWBERRY

Is perhaps more generally and extensively cultivated than any other of the small fruits. Ripening early in the summer when no other fruits are in season, they are universally appreciated and in great demand; thousands of bushels find a ready sale in the towns and cities, and large quantities are preserved or canned for use later in the season. There are from 40 to 50 varieties in general cultivation, the most popular of which are the following:—Atlantic, Bidwell, Cumberland Triumph, Crescent, Cornelia, Charles Downing, Daniel Boone, Early Canada, Glendale, James Vick, Jersey Queen, Manchester, Mrs. Garfield, President Wilder, Sharpless, and Wilson's Albany.

WILD FRUITS.

The Blueberry.

Under this general term the fruits of several species of *Vaccinium* are included, which are found growing in all parts of Canada, but most abundantly in rocky and sandy districts. The varieties which yield the larger part of the fruit found in commerce are *Vaccinium Canadense*, *V. Pennsylvanicum*, and *V. corymbosum*. Immense quantities of blueberries are sent to the cities and towns of Canada, being gathered by the settlers in the back townships and by the Indians.

This fruit is nearly oblong in form, varies in size from a quarter to three-eighths of an inch in diameter, and is of a dark blue colour, generally covered with a light bloom. The skin is thin, and the pulp sweet and melting, with very small seeds, and a pleasant acidulous taste. A valuable wild fruit, much eaten in the raw state, also in pies and tarts; they are also canned for winter use.

The Saskatoon Berry.

This is known also under the name of Poire. It is the produce of *Amelanchier alnifolia*, and is found growing over the whole of Manitoba and the North-west Territories. The shrub varies in height in different localities as well as in the size of the fruit and shape of the leaves. The berries are usually about half an inch long and one-third less in diameter; it is rather insipid to the taste, but is sweet and nutritious. It is used by the settlers both fresh and preserved, and by the Indians dried and fresh.

The Cranberry.

Cranberries are the fruit of *Oxycoccus macrocarpus* and *O. vulgaris*; they grow in great abundance in many parts of the Dominion, especially in the Province of Nova Scotia, where they are an important article of export. *O. macrocarpus* furnishes the larger portion of the crop marketed.

OTHER WILD FRUITS.

In addition to the wild fruits already referred to, wild plums occur in abundance in most of the provinces, and in some districts are brought to market in large quantities. Although only one species is recognised, the fruit varies both in size and colour in a remarkable manner. The colours are red, yellow, and dark bluish-purple, and the quality and character of the flesh varies also. In size they range from half an inch to an inch in diameter, varying in form from round to oval.

Several species of the wild cherries are also abundant, notably *Prunus virginiana*, *P. serotina*, and *P. demissa*. The latter, which is believed to be the species that grows chiefly in the North-west Territories, is the only sort eaten, although the fruit of *P. serotina* is sold in the markets and used for making cordials similar to cherry brandy.

The wild smooth gooseberry, *Ribes oxycanthides*, although of very small size, is a marketable product in the Province of Quebec, and is said to be equal in flavour to the cultivated sorts. The form found in the Maritime provinces produces larger fruit and appears to be equally productive.

Wild raspberries and strawberries both find their way to the markets in the towns and rural districts in very large quantities, especially the raspberry. They are partly consumed in the fresh state and the remainder canned or preserved.

REPORT
ON
CANADIAN
FRUITS.

Query 2.—During what months are the chief fruits obtainable; what quantities of each approximately are available for export; and what are the wholesale prices locally?

The early apples begin to ripen in August, and some of the later winter sorts will keep in a cool cellar in good condition until the following June; the greater [part] of the crop, however, is shipped during the month of October.

Pears vary much in time of ripening, and cover the season from August to February. Plums ripen in August and September, Cherries in June and July. The apricots ripen a week or two before the early plums, and the nectarine comes in the middle of the peach season, which extends from the latter part of August to the end of September.

Grapes ripen in September, and some of the varieties, if stored in a cool place, may be kept in good condition until the end of December. Gooseberries ripen in July, and black and red currants during the same month. The raspberries begin to ripen during the last week in June and continue until the middle of July. The early strawberries are marketable about the middle of June, and the later varieties prolong the season until about the middle of July.

The quantities available vary much, depending upon the character of the season. The exports during 1885 much exceeded those of 1884, while the crop of 1886, being larger than the two preceding years, will show a much greater increase. The local wholesale prices of apples vary from one dollar and a half to two dollars per barrel; pears from one to two dollars per bushel; plums from one to two dollars per bushel; cherries from five to ten cents per quart; peaches from two to three dollars per bushel; grapes from four to eight cents per pound; raspberries from six to ten cents per quart; currants and gooseberries from five to eight cents per quart; and strawberries from six to eight cents per quart.

Query 3.—What fruits are at present exported (1) in a fresh or (2) in a preserved state? Please state the destination, the quantity, and the estimated value of each port.

The exports of fresh fruits for the year ending on the 30th June 1886 were as follows:—Apples to Great Britain, 176,505 barrels, value \$410,898; to the United States, 41,407 barrels, value \$55,302; to other countries; 4,831 barrels, value \$10,804. Other fruits were exported of the following value:—To Great Britain, \$38; to the United States, \$22,064; to other countries, \$492.

Query 4.—Are all or any of the fruits mentioned above capable of being produced in much larger quantities than at present? If so, what steps are necessary to start or develop a fruit trade, and what inducements, if any, do local men specially desire to open or extend a trade in fresh or preserved fruits either with the Mother Country or neighbouring States?

All the fruits mentioned are capable of being produced in much larger quantities than at present, indeed there is no practical limit to the capacity of Canada for the production of fruit. A very large

number of young orchard trees are being planted annually, which will shortly result in a greatly increased yield. The experience gained during the recent Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London has shown the importance of cold storage in the transportation of fruit, especially of the early ripening sorts, and it is highly desirable that facilities in this direction should be offered to the fruit growers of Canada so as to stimulate the export of autumn fruits.

The Government of Canada are establishing in most of the larger provinces experimental farms, where many experiments in fruit production will be carried on, new and promising fruits introduced from all parts of the world with the view of enlarging the area of fruit culture and increasing production. With suitable information given as to the most profitable sorts to grow, and the excellent facilities now provided for rapid transport, it is believed that the energy of Canadian fruit growers will furnish all the other stimulus needed to enlarge and extend this important branch of agricultural industry, and, with reasonable facilities, furnish supplies for all the markets which may be open to them.

Query 5.—What fruits are now imported into the Colony either fresh or preserved? Please state kind, quantity, and value, and the market from whence derived.

The imports of such fruits into Canada (as might in large proportion be grown here) for the year ended June 30th, 1886, were as follows:—Apples from the United States, 31,575 barrels, value \$63,775; small fruits, viz., blackberries, gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries, from the United States, 231,378 lbs., value \$23,557; cherries and currants, from the United States, 51,085 quarts, value \$4,914; cranberries, plums, and quinces, from the United States, 17,170 bushels, value \$34,650; from Newfoundland, 15 bushels, value \$13; grapes from the United States, 389,868 lbs., value \$27,340; peaches from the United States, 592,880 lbs., value \$42,571.

Canned fruits from Great Britain, 1,512 lbs., value \$149; from the United States, 592,391 lbs., value \$34,495.

Query 6.—Please add any special points of interest connected with the fruits of the Colony herein reported upon which are desirable to place on record.

It should be borne in mind that a large proportion of the green or fresh fruits imported into Canada from the United States consist of early ripening sorts, which are obtainable from the southern portions of that Republic several weeks in advance of Canadian fruits, and are in demand chiefly among those classes of the community who can afford to pay for such luxuries out of season.

(Signed) WM. SAUNDERS.

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